

# The Batchelers Banquet,

OR,

## A Banquet for Batchelers.

Wherein is prepared sundry dainty Dishes to  
furnish their Tables, curiously Drab:  
and seriously senned in.

Pleasantly discoursing the variable humours of  
Women, their quickness of Wits, and  
researchable Decens.

*View them well, but taste not;  
Regard them well, but waste not.*



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The Batchelors Banquet  
You Batchelers that with vs meane to feast,  
Come all and welcome to our homely fate;  
If at our Banquet you will be a Guest,  
Here at our furnisht Table take a share:  
Our Ordinary is but six pence price,  
Variety of dishes; be not nice.

We must confesse our Board it is not spread  
As is the Married-mans, with Carpe and Lout;  
We doe not vse to feed vpon Codshhead,  
Crabs, Ill-pies, Gudgion, nor the dogged Pout;  
For flesh, we taste no Soule, no Lamb, no Quaille,  
No Woodcock, Widgion, Bitter, Goose nor Roile.

For our last seruice, we feed not on Chuse,  
Small-reasons, Bitter-almonds, nor Choake-peares;  
We eat the best and doe the worst refuse,  
Haue good content, and sing away sad cares:  
Good Diet, English Beere, and Spanish Sherry,  
Come Batchelers then let vs all be merry.



The Batchelers Banquet :  
Or a Banquet for Batchelers : wherein is prepared  
sundry dishes to furnish their Table : Curiously  
drest, and seriously served in.

CHAP. I.

The humour of a young wife now married.

**I**t is the naturall inclination of a young gallant,  
in the pleasant prime, and flower of his flourishing  
youth, being fresh, lusty, and second, to take  
no other care but to employ his money to buy  
gay presents for pretty Ladies, to frame his  
greene wits in penning Rote Witties, his hopes  
to sing them sweetly, his wandering eyes to gaze  
on the fairest Dames, and his wanton thoughts to plot means for  
the speedy accomplishment of his wished desires, according to the  
compass of his estate. And albeit his parents or some other of his  
kindred, doe perhaps furnish him with necessary maintenance, so  
that hee wants nothing, but liues in all ease and delight; yet cannot  
this content him, or satisfie his vnerperienced minde: for although he  
daily se many married men, first lapt in Lobs pound, wanting  
former liberty and compassed round in a cage of many cares; yet  
notwithstanding over-ruled by selfe will, and blinded by folly, hee  
supposes them therein to haue the fulnesse of their delight, be-  
cause they haue so nere them the Image of content, Venus starre  
gloriously blazing vpon them, I meane a dainty faire wife, bachel-  
attired, whose apparell perhaps is not yet paid for, (howsoeuer to  
draw their husband into a soles parable) they make them belene,  
that their father or mother haue of their cost and bounty affozded it.  
This lusty youth (as I haue said) taking them already in this maye  
of bitter sweetnesse, hee goes round about, turning his selfe in  
seeking an entrance, and taking such paines to finde his owne paine,

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that in the end, in he gets, when for the bass he makes, to haue a taste of these supposed delicacies, he hath no leasure to thinke, or no care to provide those things that are herunto requisite. The lolly yonker being thus gotten in, doth for a time swim in delight, and hath no desire at all to winde himselfe out again, till time and vse which makes all things moze familiar and lesse pleasing, doe qualifie this humour: then glotted with sariety, or pinched with penury, hee may perhaps begin to see his folly, and repent as well his fondnesse as his too much forwardeesse but all too late, he must haue patience perforce: his wife must be maintained according to her degree, and withall (commonly it haps she carry the right stomack of a woman) slender maintenance will not serue, for as their minds mount aboue their estates, so commonly will they haue their abilliments. And if at a feast, or some other gossips meeting whereunto she is inuited, these any of the company gaily attired for rask, or fashion, or both, and chiefly the latter, for generally women do affect nouelties, she forthwith mooues a question in her selfe, why shee also should not be in like sort attired; to haue her garments cut after the new fashion as well as the rest, and answers it with resolution, that she will, and must haue the like: Awaiting onely fit time and place, for the mouing and winning of her husband therunto, of both which shee will make such choice, that when she speaks shee shall be sure to spee: obseruing her opportunity when she might take her husband at the most advantage, which is commonly the garden of loue, the state of marriage delights, and the life wherein the weaker sex hath euer the better: when therefore this lusty gallant would fulfill his desire, for which cause hee chiefly ran wilfully into the perill of Lobs pound, then seemingly shee begins thus, saying, I pray you husband let mee alone, trouble mee not, for I am not well at ease: which hee hearing presently makes this reply,

Why my sweet heart what ailes you, are you not well? I pray the wife tell mee, where lies thy grieue: or what is the cause of your discontent: whereupon the vile woman fetching a depe sigh makes this answer. O Husband God helpe me. I haue cause enough to grieue, and if you knew all you would say so: but alas it is in vaine to tell you any thing, seeing that whatsoeuer I say, you make but light reckoning of it: and therefore it is best for mee to bury my sorowes in silence, being out of hope to haue any helpe  
at



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at your hands. Telsa wife (saith he) why ste you these wordes, for my behindnesse sayth that I may not know your grieues: tell me I say what is the matter: In truth husband it looes to no purpose, for I know your custome well enough, as for my wordes, they are but waste wind in your eares, for how great soeuer my griefe is, I am assured you will but make light of it, and thinke that I speake it for some other purpose.

Goe to wife, saith her husband, tell it me, for I will know it. Well husband, if you will needs, you shall: you know on Thursday last, I was sent for, and you willed me to goe to Mistresse M. churhing, and when I came thither I found great there, and no small company of suitors; but the mestell of them all was not so ill attired as I, and surely I was neede to ashamed of my selfe in my life: yet I speake it not to praise my selfe, but it is well knowne, and I dare boldly say, that the best woman there came of no better stocke than I. But alas I speake not this for my selfe, for God wot I possesse not how much my selfe am apparelled, but I speake it for your credit and my friends. My wife, saith he, of what calling and degree were those you speake of. Truly god husband (saith she) the merchant that was there, being but of my degree, was in her lase gowne with hanging sleeves, her French roses, her silke gregaine kirtle, her smit hat with a gold band, and these with the rest of her attire, made of the newest fashion, which is knowne the best: whereas I page wretch had on my thredbare gowne, which was made me so long agoe againe I was married, before that it was new to me: for me say it is I remember here it was made about thre yeres agoe, since which time I am growne very much, and so changed with cares and griefes, that I looke farre older than I am: Trust me I was so ashamed, being amongst my neighbours, that I had not the heart to looke by, but that which gricened me most was, when Epistrotte Luce R. and Epistrotte T. said openly that it was a shame both for you and me, that I had no better apparel. Telsa wife (saith the good man) let them say what they list, we are neuer a whit the worse for their wordes, we haue enough to doe with our money, though we spend it not in apparel: you know well when we met together, we had no great store of household stuffe, but were faine to buy it after ward by

saith

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Some and some, as God sent money, and yet you see we want many things that is necessary to bee had: besides, the quarter day is nere, and my Landlord you know will not forbear his rent: moreover you see how much it costs me in law about the recovering of the Wrenement which I should haue by you: God send mee to get it quickly, or else I shall haue but a had bargaine of it, for it hath already almost cost me as much as it is worth. At these words his wiues choller begins to rise, whereupon she makes him this answer. Goodly, goodly, (saith she) when you haue nothing else to hit me in the teeth withall, yet twist me with the Wrenement: but it is my fortune. Why how now, saith her husband, are you now angry for nothing? Nay, I am not angry, I shall be content with that which God hath ordained for me: but I was the time was, when I might haue bene better advised, there are some yet lining that would haue bene glad to haue me in my snock, whom you know well enough to bee proper young men, and there withal wise and wealthy: but I verily suppose I was bewitched to match with a man that loves me not: though I purchased the ill will of all my friends for his sake, this is all the good that I haue gotten thereby: I may truly say I am the most unhappy woman in the world: can you thinke that Law. Tom. and N. M. (who were both sister to me) doe keepe their wiues so: no by-lady, for I know the worst clothes that they call off, is better than my very best which I weare on the chiefeest dayes in the yere: I know not what the cause is that so many good women dye, but I would to God that I were dead too: that I might trouble you no more, seeing I am such an eye-sore vnto you: Now by my faith wife saith you say not well, there is nothing that I thinke so good for you, if my ability can compass it. But you know your estate, we must doe as we may, and not as we would, yet be content, and I will straine my selfe to please you, in this or any other thing.

Nay, I haue regard on such matters, and if you had no more desire the vnto than I, I promise you you would neuer touch mee. So his wife (saith she) hoping so with a teile to make her merry, by my honest I sweare, I verily thinke that if I were dead, you would not bee long without another husband. So maruellous saith she, I lead such a good life with you now! By my christian soule I sweare, there should neuer man kisse my lips againe. And if I thought I should liue long with you, I would vse meanes to make my selfe away: here.

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herewithall she puts finger in the eye, making shew as though she wept, Thus plagues shee with the filly see her husband (meaning nothing lesse than to doe as shee saies) while hee pines for to winne the both wel and ill a paine hee thinks himselfe well, because hee imagines her of a cold constitution; and therefore exceeding chafe: hee thinks himselfe ill, to see her fained teares, for that hee verily supposes shee loves him, which doth not a little grieue him, being so kind and tender hearted. Therefore hee bleth all meanes possible to make her quiet, neuer will hee giue her ouer while hee hath offeased it. But this prosecuting her former purpose which shee hath already set in so faire a forwarresse, makes as though shee were nothing moued with his gentle perswasions: Therefore to crosse him, hee gets her by bedlines in the morning, sooner a great deale than shee was wont; pawling and louzing all the day, and not giuing him one good word. But when night comes, and they againe both in bed, laying her selfe fully to sleepe and continuing still silent, the good man hartens whether shee sleep or no, findes if shee be well covered or not, hee softly pluckes by the clothes vpon her, lapping her warme, being doubtles diligent to please her. When lying all this while thinking, noting his kindnesse and carefulnesse towards her, hee comes on a sudden to awake from a sound sleepe, grunting and musing vnder the sheets, giuing him occasion thereby thus to begin: Who now sleepest here, what are you asleep? *Asleepe* (saith shee) *I* rather than a troubled minde can neuer take good rest. *Why* woman are not you quiet yet? *No* doubt (saith shee) you care much whether *I* be or no. *By* lady wife, and so *I* doe: and since yesternight *I* haue bethought mee (having well considered your words) that it is very idle and ridiculous, that you should bee better furnished with apparell than heretofore you haue bene, for indeed *I* must confesse the clothes are too simple: and therefore *I* meane againe my cousin M. wedding (which you know will bee shortly) that you shall haue a new gowne made on the best fashion, with all things suitable therunto, in such sort that the best woman in the parish shall not passe you. *Now* (quoth shee) *God* willing *I* meane to goe to no weddings this twelue month, for the goodly credit *I* got by the last. *By* my faith (saith hee) but you shall, what you must not hee to headstrong and selfe wilde. *I* tell you if *I* say the word you shall goe, and you shall want nothing that you shall require. What *I* aske: alas husband (quoth shee) *I* aske nothing, neither did *I* aske this for my desire

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Not she for  
twenty pound  
good woman.

desire that I haue to goe home: trust me for mine owne part I care  
not if I neuer stirre abroad, saue onely to Church: but what I said  
was, upon the speeches which were there used, and such other like  
words, which my goodly Nephew that she had also heard in compa-  
ny, where she was. With these words the good kind fosterer husband  
is ruffled, for on the one side he considers his fund, & other occasion to  
his money, and his small store thereof, which is perhaps so slender,  
that his single purse cannot extempore charge a double pistolet. And  
so ill belied to be of household stuffe, that perhaps the third part is not  
a sufficient pawning for so much money, as this new suit of his wifes  
will stand him in, But on the other side he weighs her discontent, the  
report of neighbours speeches, and lastly, how good a wife he hath of  
her, how chaste, how loving, how religious, whereof the kinde Auncle  
hath such an opinion, that he thanks God with all his heart, for ble-  
ssing him with such a Jewell: In this thought he resolves that all o-  
ther things set aside, he must and will content her. And here withall  
he sets his business a fresh on worke, to consider how best he may  
compasse it. And in this humour he spends the whole night without  
sleep, in continuall thought: And it comes to passe that the wise per-  
ceiving to what a point she hath brought her purpose, doth not a lit-  
tle reioyce and smile in her sleepe to see it. The next morning by the  
break of day the poor man gets up, who for care and thought could  
take no rest all night, and goes presently to the Wapers, of whom  
he takes by cloth for three moneths time, paying for it after an ex-  
cessive rate, by reason of their forbearance, and in like sort makes  
provision for the rest, or perhaps because he would buy it at a better  
rate, he pawns for ready money the lease of his house, or some faire  
piece of plate (which his grandfather bought, and his father charily  
keeping) left for him, which now he is enforced to part with, to sur-  
nish thereby his wifes pride: and having thus dispatched his busi-  
ness, he returnes home with a merry heart, and helpe his wife  
what he had done: who being now sure of all, begins to raise the  
first mutters of pride, and exesse in apparel: saying, I've upon  
it, what pride is this: but I pray your husband, doe not say hereafter  
that I made you lay out your money in this needlesse sort, for I pre-  
sume that I haue no delight or desire to see this garishly: If I haue  
to cover my body and keepe me warme it contents me. The good  
man hearing his wife say so, doth even leape for joy, thinking all  
her

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her words Gospel, and therefore presently he sets the taploz awork, willing him to dispatch out of hand, that his wife may be hzave so soon as may be. & he hauing thus obtained her purpose, doth inwardly triumph for very ioy, howsoeuer outwardly she doth dissemble. And whereas before she haunted, that she could finde in her heart to keepe alwayes within dore, she will be sure now enery god day to goe abroad, and at each feast and Gossips meeting to be a continuall guest, that all may see her bzavery, and how well shee doth become it; for which cause she also comes enery Sunday daily to the Church, that there shee may see and bee seene, which her husband thinks she doth of more deuotion. But in the meane while the time runs on, and the day comes, wherein the poore man must pay his creditors, which being unable to doo, he is at length arrested, and after due proceeding in Law, he hath an execution serued vpon him, or his patvne is forfeited, and by either of both he is almost vtterly vndone. Then must his fine wife of force baile her peacocke plumes, and fall againe to her old bras, keeping her house against her will, because she could not be furnisht with gay attire according to her minde. But God knoweth in what misery the silly man doth liue, being daily vered with her bawling and scolding, exclaiming against him, that all the house doth ring thereof, and in this sort she begins her sagaries. Now cursed be the day that euer I saw thy face, and a shame take them that brought mee first acquainted with thee: I would to God I had either dyed in my cradle, or gone to my graue when I went to be married with thee. Was euer woman of my degree and birth brought to this beggery? Or any of my byzining by kept thus basely, and brought to this shame? I which little knew what labour meant, must now toyle and tend the house as a vnzidge, hauing neuer a coat to my backe, or scant handsome hose to my legs, and yet all little enough, whereas I wis I might haue had twenty god marriages, in the meane of which I would haue liued at ease and pleasure, without being put to any paine, or suffering any penury. Wretch that I am, why doe I liue? Now would to God I were in my graue already, for I am weary of the world, weary of my life, and weary of all. Thus doth she daily complaine, and lay all the fault of her fall on him which least deserved it, nothing remembzring her owne pride, in coueting things aboue their estate or ability;

Al: poore  
focke.

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her misgouernment, and daily gadding with her Gossips to banquets and Brides, when she should haue lookt to the house, and followed her owne businesse at home. And his folly is also such, that being blinded with Dotage, (thzough too much louing her,) cannot perceiue that she is the cause of all this euill, of all the cares, griefes, and thoughts, which perplex and torture him, and yet nothing cuts him so much as this, to see her so sumptuous and vnquiet, when if hee can any time somewhat pacifie, then is his heart somewhat at rest. Thus doth the silly wretch tolle and turmoule himselfe in Lobs pound, wzyapt in a kinde of pleasing woe, out of the which he hath neither power, nor will to winde himselfe: but therein doth consume the reymant of his Languishing life, and miserably ends his dayes.

### CHAP. II.

The humour of a Woman pranked vp in  
braue Apparell.

**T**he nature of a Woman inclined to another kinde of humour, (which is this) when the wife seeing her selfe brauely apparelled, and that she is therewith faire and comely (or if she be not) yet thinking her selfe so (as Women are naturally giuen to loath themselves.) she doth as I said before, hunt after feasts and solemne meetings, wherewith her husband perhaps is not very well pleased: which she perceiuing, the more to blear his eyes, she takes with her some kinswoman, or Gossip, or possible some lusty Gallant, of whom she claimes kindred, though in very deed there be no such matter, but onely a smooth colour to deceive her Husband: And perchance to induce him the sooner to beleue it, her Mother (which is priuie to the match,) will not sticke to say and sweare it is so: Yet sometime the Husband, to prevent his Wifes gadding, will saue some let, as want of Horses, or other like hinderances: then presently the Gossip or Kinswoman (of whom before I spake,) will thus solemnely assault him.

Beleue me Gossip, I haue as little pleasure as who hath least, in going abroad, for I wis I had not so much businesse to do this month as I haue at this instant: yet should I not goe to this wedding, being so kindly bidden, I know the young Bride would take it



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in very ill part: Yea, and (I may say to you) so would our neighbours, and others our friends, which will be there, who would verily imagine, wee keepe away for some other cause: and were it not for this, I protest I would not stirre out of dores, neither would my Cousin your Wife haue any desire to goe thither: thus much I can truly witnesse, that I neuer knew any woman take lesse delight in such things than your wife: or which being abroad, will make more haste to be at home againe.

The silly man her husband, being banquished by these words, and no longer able to deny their request, demands onely what other women doe appoint to goe, and who shall man them: Harry Sye, (saith she) that shall my Cousin H. And besides your Wife and I, there goes my Kinswoman T. and her Mother, Mistresse H. and her Aunt: my Uncle T. and his Brother be met with both their Wives: Mistresse C my next Neighbour: and to conclude, all the Womenn of account in this Citie: (I dare boldly say,) that honester company there cannot be, though it were to conuey a Kings Daughter.

Now it oft chanceth that this smooth tongued Matrix who pleads thus quaintly with womans Art, must haue for her paines a Gowne cloth, a Ketwell, or some other recompence, if she preuaile with the good man, and cunningly play her part. He after some pause (perhaps) will reply in this sort: Gossip, I confesse it is very good company, but my wife hath now great businesse at home, and besides she bseth to goe very much abroad, yet for this time I am content she shall goe: But I pray you, Daine (quoth he) be at home betimes. His wife seeing that her gossip had gotten leave, makes as if she cares not for going forth, saying: By my faith man I haue something else to doe, than to goe to a Weddall at this present: what: we haue a great household, and rude seruants (God wot) whose idlenesse is such, that they will not doe any thing, if a bodie back be turn'd: for it is an old Proverbe: (When the Cat is away, the Mouse will play.) And therefore Gossip hold you content, wee must not be altogether carelesse, nor set so much by our pleasure to neglect our profit: And therefore hold me excused, for I cannot now be spared, nor I will not goe, that is flat. Say good gossip (saith the other) seeing your husband hath giuen you leaue, let vs haue your company this once, and if it be but for my sake, such a chance as this comes not euery day. With that



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the good man taking the old Syb aside, whisperer her thus in her eare: were it not Gossip for the confidence I repose in you, I protest she should not stirre out of doores at this time. Now as I am an honest woman (quoth she) and of my credit Gossip you shall not need to doubt any thing.

Thus to Heise they get, and alway they spurre, with a merry gallop, laughing to themselves, mocking and flouting the silly man for his simplicity: the one saying to the other, that he had a shrewd tearous bzaire, but it should auail him nothing. Tully (saith the young woman) it is an old saying, Hee had need of a long spoone that will eat with the Deuill; ) and thee of a good wit that would preuent the fury of a ielous foole: and with this and the like talke, they passe the time till they come to the place appointed, where they met with lusty Gallants, who (paradventure) had at the former feast made the match, and were come thither of purpose to strike by the bargain. But howsoeuer it is, this lusty Lasse lacks no good there, nor any kindnesse which they can shew her.

Imagine now how forward she will be to shew her best skill in Dancing and singing, and how lightly she will afterward offeame her Husband, being thus courted and commended by a crew of lusty Gallants, who seeing her so brauely attired, and graced with so sweet and smooth a tongue, so sharpe a wit, so amiable a countenance, will each strue to exceed other, in seruing, louing, and pleasing her: for the gallant carriage and wanton demeanour of so beautifull a piece, cannot chuse but encourage a more Toward, and heat (if not enflame) a frozen heart: One assaies her with sugred tearues, and some pleasant discourse, painting forth his affection with Louers eloquence: Another giues her a ppyr Token, by straining her soft hand, or treading vpon her pretty foot: Another Eyes her with a piercing and pitifull looke, making his countenance his fancies Herold: and perhaps the third (which is most likely to speed) bestowes vpon her a gold ring, a Diamond, a Ruby, or some such like costly toy: By all which aforesaid tokens, she may well conceine their meanings, (if she haue any conceit at all,) and sometimes it so falls out, that they fall in where they should not: and she keeping somewhat aside, doth so shrewdly streine her honesty, that hardly or neuer the grieffe can be cured. But to proceed, this overgorgeous wantoning of his Wife, brings the poore man behind hand, and doth with-  
all

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all cause a greater incommenſure : for in the end by one meane or other, either through her too much boldneſſe, or her Lovers want of ſtaringneſſe, the matter at length comes to light, whereof ſome friend or Miniſter gives him notice.

He being tickled by this bad report, thereupon ſearching further, findes it true, or gathers moze likelihood of ſuſpition, and that preſently infects his thoughts with Zealouſſe, into which mad to;menting humor, no wiſe man will ever fall : for it is an evil both extreme and endleſſe, eſpecially (if it be juſtly conceived) vpon the wiles knowne lewdneſſe, for then there is no hope of curing. Whe on the other ſide ſeing this, and receiuing for her loſe life many bitter ſpeeches, doth cloſely keep on her old courſe, but now moze for ſpight than pleaſure: for it is in vaine to thinke that ſhe will reclaim her ſelfe. And if he (hoping by constraint to make her honeſt) fall to beating her, (though he be neuer ſo much ſeuerity, he ſhall but kindle ſo much the moze the fire of that lewd loue, which ſhe bears vnto others: hereon followes a heape of miſchiefs : He growes careleſſe of his buſineſſe, letting all things run to ruine : She on the other ſide becomes ſhameliſſe, conuerting into deadly hate the Love that ſhe ſhould beare him. Judge now what a purgatozy of perplexities the poore man doth liue in : and yet for all this, he is ſo beſotted, that he ſeemes to take great pleaſure in his paines, and to be ſo farre in loue with Lobs pound, that were he not already in, yet he would make all haſt poſſible to be poſſeſſed of the place, there to conſume the reſidue of his life, and miſerably end his days.

### CHAP. III.

The humour of a woman lying in Childbed.

**T**here is another humor incident to a woman, when her husband ſees her belly to grow big (though peradventure by the helpe of ſome other friend) yet he perſwades himſelfe, it is a trooke of his owne framing : and thinke on him new cares and troubles, for then muſt he trot vp and downe day and night, farre and nere, to get with great coſt that his wife longs for, if ſhe let fall but a pin hee is diligent to take it vp, leſt ſhe by ſcouping ſhould hurt her ſelfe, where on the other ſide is ſo hard to pleaſe, that it is a great hap when hee ſits her humour, in bringing home that which likes her,

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her, though hee spare no paines no: cost to get it. And oft times  
throughe ease and plenty she growes so queasie stomack, that she can  
brake no common meate, but longs for strange and rare things,  
which whether they be to be had or no, yet she must haue them there  
is no remedy. She must haue Cherries, though for a pound hee pay  
ten Shillings, or greene Pescods at foure nobles a pecke: yea, he must  
take a horse and ride into the Countrey, to get her greene Codlings,  
when they are scarcely so big as a scotch button. In this trouble and  
deraction of minde and body, liues the silly man for six or seuen mo-  
neths, all which time his wife doth nothing but complaine, and hee  
poore soule takes all the care, rising early, going late to bed, and to  
be short, is faine to play both the husband and huswife. But when  
the time drawes nere of her lying downe, then must hee trudge to  
get Gossips, such as she will appoint, or else all the fat is in the fire.  
Consider then what cost and trouble it will bee to him, to haue all  
things fine against the Chyrlining day, what store of Sugar, Bi-  
kets, Coniophets and Carawayes, Marmalet, and marchpane, with  
all kind of sweet suckets, and superfluous banqueting stuffe, with a  
hundred other odde and needlesse trifles; which at that time must fill  
the pockets of daintie dames: Besides the charge of the midwife, she  
must haue her nurse to attend and keep her, who must make for her  
warine broaths, and costly catowles, enough both for her selfe and  
her mistresse, being of the minde to fare no worse than she: If her  
mistresse be fed with partridge, plouer, woodcocks, quails, or any  
such like, the nurse must be partner with her in all these dainties:  
neither yet will that suffice, but during the whole moneth, she piti-  
ly pilfers away the suger, the marmes and ginger, with all other  
spices that comes vnder her keeping, putting the poore man to such  
expence, that in a whole yere he can scarcely recover that one mo-  
neths charges. Then euery day after her lying downe will sundry  
dames visit her, which are her neighbors, her kin women, and other  
her speciall acquaintance, whom the good man must welcome with all  
cheerfulness, and be sure there be some dainties in store to set be-  
fore them: where they about some three or foure houres (or possibly  
halfe a day) will sit chatting with the Childwife, and by that time  
the cups of wine haue merrily trod about; and halfe a dozen times  
moysted their lips with the sweet iuice of the purple grape: They  
begin thus one with another to discourse; Good Lord neighbour, I  
maruaile

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maruaile how our gossip Frees doth, I haue not seene the good soule this many a day.

Wh God helpe her, quoth another, for she bath her hands full of worke, and her heart full of heauinesse: While she drudges all the worke at home, her husband like an vnhuist, neuer leaues running abroad to the Tennis court, and Dicing houses, spending all that euer he hath in such lewd sort: yea, and if that were the worke it is well: but heare you Gossip, there is another matter spoiles all, he cares no more for his wife than for a dog, but keeps queanes euery vnder her nose. Iesu saith another, who would thinke he were such a man, he behaues himselfe so orderly and civilly, to all mens sights: Tuld, hold your peace Gossip (saith the other) it is commonly seene, the still slow eats vp all the drasse, he carries a smooth countenance, but a corrupt conscience: What I knowe well enough, I will not say he loues mistresse C. goe to Gossip I thinke to you. Yea and saith another, there goes some lies if C. himselfe loues not his maid N. I can tell you their mouthes will not be stoppt with a bushell of wheate that speake it. Then the third fetching a great sigh, saying, by my faith such an other bold Bettesse haue I at home: for neuer giue me credit Gossip, if I toke her not the other day in close conference with her Baster, but I thinke I best wadole my maid in such sort, that she will haue small hill to doe so againe. Say Gossip (saith another) had it bene to me, that should not haue serued her turne, but I would haue turned the queane out out of doores to picke a Wallet: for what you what Gossip: it is all setting fire and flar together: but I pray you tell me one thing: when saw you our friend mistresse C. Now in good faith she is a kind creature, and a very gentle deat: I promise you I saw her not since you and I drank a pint of wine with her in the stillmarket. (O gossip saith the other) there is a great change since that time, for they haue bene faine to pawne all that euer they haue, and yet God knowes her husband lies still in prison. O the passion of my heart (saith another) is all their great and glorious felw come to nothing. god I ord what a world is this. While Gossip (saith another) it was neuer like to be other wise, for they liued euer to goe fine and face daintily, and by my faith Gossip, this is not a world for those matters, and thereupon I drinke to you. This is commonly their communication, where they find cheare according to their choice. But if it happen contrary, that they finde not

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not things in such plenty, and god order as they would wish, then one or other of them will talke to this effect : Trust me Gossip I marvell much, and so doth all our other friends, that your husband is not ashamed to make such small account of you, and this your sweet child. If he be such a niggard at the first, what will he be by that time he hath five or six : it doth well appeare he cares but little loue to you : whereas you vouchsafing to match with him, hath done him more credit than euer had any of his kindred. Before God, saith another, I had rather let my husbands eyes out than he should serue me so : therefore if you be wise vse him not to it : neither in this sort let him tread you vnder foot : I tell you it is a soule shame for him, and you may be wel assured sith he begins thus, that hereafter he will vse you in the same order, if not worse. In god soth saith the third, it seemes very strange to me, that a wise woman, and one of such parentage as you are, who as all men knowes is by bloud farre his better, can indure to be thus vsed by a base companion : Blame vs not to speake god Gossip, for I protest the wrong that he doth you, doth likewise touch vs, and all other god women that are in your case.

This Child-wife hearing all this, begins to wepe, saying : Alas Gossip, I know not what to doe, or how to please him, he is so dincere and wayward a man, and besides he thinks all too much that is spent. (Gossip he is saith one) a bad and a naughty man; and so it is well sene by your vsage. All my Gossips here present can tell, that when I was married to my husband, euery one said that he was so halty and hard to please that he would kill me with griefe : And indeed I may say to you, I found him crabbed enough : for he began to take vpon him mightily, and thought to haue wrought wonders, yet I haue vsed such meanes, that I haue tamed my young master, and haue at this present brought him to that passe, that I dare sweare he had rather lose one of his ioynts than wrangle with me : I will not deny, but once or twice he beat me shrewdly, which I God wot being young and tender toke in grievous part, but what he got by it let my Gossip T. report, who is yet a woman liuing, and can tell the whole story : to whom my godman within a while after said, that I was past reinedy, and that he might sooner kill me, than doe any god by beating me, (and by these ten wordes so he should) but in the end I brought the matter so about, that I got the bzidle into my owne

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stone hands, so that I may now say, I doe what I list: for be it right or wrong, if I say it, he will not gainsay it, for by this Gold on my finger, let him doe what he can I will be sure to haue the last word: so that in very deed, if that Woman be made underlings by their free bands, the fault is their owne: For there is not any man aloue, (be he neuer so churlish) but his wife may make him quiet and gentle enough, if she haue any wit: And therefore your Godman serues you but well enough, although you will take it so.

Beloue me Colly (saith another, were I in your case, I would giue him such welcome at his coming home, and ring such a peale of bad wordes in his eares, that he should haue small ioy to stay the hearing.

Thus is the poore man handled behind his back, whiles they make no spare to helpe alway with his good wine and Sugar (which he hath prepared,) whom they for his kindnesse thus ingratelfully requite: yea and now and then hauing their braines well heated, they will not sticke to taunt him to his face: accusing him of little Love, and great unkindnesse to his wife.

Now it doth many times so chauce, that he hauing bene forth to procure such meate as she would haue, he cometh home (perhaps at midnight,) and before he sitteth downe to rest himselfe, hath a very earnest desire to know how his wife doth, & perchance being loth to lye ashyed, because of expence, travels the later, that he may reach to his owne house: where (when he is come,) he asketh the Chamber-maid, or else the Nurse, how his wife doth: they hauing their Errand before giuen them by their mistres, and loers, be so very ill at ease, and that their departure that they not one bit of meate, but that towards the morning he began to be a little better, all which he mēre lyes. But the poore man hearing these wordes, grieues not a little, though he be all to be mowld, weary and wet, hauing gone a long iourney thither a bad and sickly way, vpon some ill pured trotting jade, and it may be a falling too: yet will he neither eat nor drinke, (nor so much as once sit downe) till he haue seene his Wife, When the prattling Idle Nurse, which is not to learne to exploit such a peece of seruice, begins to looke very heavily, and to sigh inwardly as though her mistres had bene that day at the point of Death, which he seeing, was the more earnest to visit his wife: whom at the entrance



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entrance of the Chamber, he heares lye groaning to her selfe, and running to the Bed side, kindly sits downe by her, saying how now my sweet heart, how dost thou? Ah Husband (saith she) I am very ill, nor was I ever so sicke in my life as I haue bene this day. Alas good soule (saith he) I am the more sorry to heare it. I pray thee tell me where lies thy paine? Ah Husband (quoth she) you know I haue bene weakke a long time, and not able to eat any thing. But Wife (quoth he) why did you not cause the Nurse to baple you a Cappon, and make a messe of god bzoath for you? So she did (saith his wife) as well as she could, but it did not like me God wot, and by that meanes I haue eaten nothing since the bzoath which your selfe made me: oh me thought that was excellent god.

Hery Wife (saith hee) I will presently make you some more of the same, and you shall eat it for my sake. With all my heart god Husband (saith she, and I shall thinke my selfe highly beholding vnto you. Then trudgeth he into the kitchen, there playes he the Croke burning and bzooping himselfe ouer the fire, hauing his eyes ready to be put out with smoake, while hee is busie in making the Bzoath: what time he chides with his maids, calling them brads and beggares, that knowes not how to doe any thing. Not so much as make a little bzoath for a sicke body, but he must be faine to do it himselfe. When comes downe Mistresse Nurse as faine as a farthing I dwle, in her petticoat and kirtle, hauing on a lubbe waistcoat, with a flaunting raimbick rusie about her necke, who like a Doctris in Faculty, comes thus vpon him. Good Lord say, what paines you take, here is no body can please our Mistres but your selfe: I will assure you (on my credit) that I doe what I can, yet for my life, I cannot, I am way content her. Soeouer here come in mistresse Cor. and mistresse Con. who did both of them what they could to haue your Wife eat something. Neuertheless all that they did, could not make her take one spoonfull of any thing all this lye-long day: I know not what she ayles: I haue kept many women in my time, both of worship and credit, (simple though I stand here,) but I neuer knew any so weakke as shee is: I, I (quoth hee) you are a company of running Cokes, that cannot make a little Bzoath as it should be. And by this time the Bzoath being ready, he brings it straight to his wife, commending her with many kind wordes, praying her to eat for his sake, as to taste a spoonfull or twaine, which she doth, commendng it to the



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the Houers, assuring also, that the Broach which the others made had no good taste in the world, and was nothing worth. The good man herof being not a little proud, bids them make a good fire in his wolver chamber, charging them to tend her well. And having giuen this direction, he gets himselfe to supper, with some cold meat set before him, such as the Gollips left, or his horse could spare, and hauing this short pittance, he goes to bed full of care.

The next morning he gets him by betimes, and comes very kindly to know how his wife doth, who presently pops him in the mouth with a smooth lye: saying, that all night she could take no rest till it grew towards the morning, and then she began to feele a little more ease, when God knows she neuer slept more soundly in all her life. Well wife, (said the good man,) you must remember that this night is our Gollips supper, and they will come hither with many other of our friends; therfore we must provide some good thing for them; Especially, because it is your Wpitting, and a fortnight at the least since you were brought to Bed: but good wife, let us goe as nere to the world as we may, fearing that our great charge doth every day increase, and money was neuer so ill to come by.

So he hearing him to say so, begins to pout, saying: would for my part I had dyed in Trauell, and my poore infant bene strangled in the birth, so should you not be troubled with vs at all, nor haue cause to repine so much at our spending: I am sure there is neuer a Woman in the world, that in my case hath worse keeping, or is less chargeable, yet let mee pinch and spare, and doe what I can, all is thought too much that I haue: Trust me I care not a straw whether you provide me any thing or no, although the sorrow be mine, the shame will be yours, as yesterday for example: I am sure here came in aboue a dozen of our Neighboures and Friends, of more kindness to see me, and know how I do, who by their countenance and conuening did you greater credit than you deserue: But God knows what entertainment they had, hauing nothing in the house to set before them, which made me so much ashamed, that I know not what to say: He tell you what, before God I may boldly speake it, (for I haue seene it,) that when any one of them lies in, their very seruants haue better fare than I my selfe haue had at your hands, which they seeing (betwixt themselves yesterday) when they were here, did most cunningly shew both you and mee for their entertainment, I haue

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not (as you know) lyen in about fifteen dayes, and can yet scant stand on my legs, and you thinke the time so long, till I be mooping about the house (to catch my hane,) as I feare I have done already. We leave me & wife (quoth he) you mistake me greatly, for no man in the world can be more kind to his wife, than I have bene to you. Kind is me quoth she by the masse that you have with a warrren: No doubt but I have had a sweet messe of cherishing at your hands, but I see your dyist wel enough, you gape every day for my death, and I would to God it were so for me: The moneth indeed is halfe expired, and I feare the rest will come, before we be ready for it: My sister was here no longer agoe than to day, and aske if I had ever a new Colone to be Churched in, but God wot I am farre enough from it, neither do I desire it, though it be a thing which ought both by reason and custome to be observed.

And because it is your pleasure, I will rise to morrow, what chance soever befall, for the worst is, I can but lose my life: full well may I gather by this, how you will use me hereafter, and what account you would make of me, if I had nine or ten children, but God forbid it should ever come so to passe, I desire rather to be rid of my life, and so to shun the shame of the world, than long to live with such an unkind churle. Now verily wife (saith the god man) I must needs blame your impatience, for growing so cholericke without cause. Without cause (quoth she) do you think I have no just cause to complaine: I will assure you there is never a woman of my degree, that would put by the intolerable injuries that I have done, and daily do by means of your hoggish conditions. What wife, saith the god man, yet as long as you live, and rise when you will, but I pray you tell me how this new gown may be had, which you so earnestly aske for: By my faith (quoth she) you say not well, for I aske nothing at your hands, neither would I have it though I might: I thank God I have gowns enough already, and sufficient to serve my turne, you know I take take no delight in garish attire, for I am past a girle, but it makes mee smile to see what a show of kindnesse you would faine make: Flye on the dissembler, you can cog and flatter as well as any man in this towne, and full little thinke they that see you abroad what a devill you are at home: for what with your crooked qualities with toying, mooping, carking and caring, and being beside broken with child bearing, my countenance is quite changed, so that I looke already

The Fox will  
eat no grapes.

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already as withered, as the backs of an Elder bough: There is my Cousin T. T. who takes I had a little girl, was of woman's estate, and in the end married another filitully whom she leaveth a Raving life, looking so young and lusty, that I may seeme to be her mother: T. T. such is the difference betwixt a hindes, and an vntuere our Husband: and who knowes not but he was a tutor to me, and made many a iourney to my fathers house for my sake, and would so faine have had me, that while I was to marry, he would not match himselfe with any: but so much was I bewitched, that after I had once seen you, I would not have changed for the best Lord in the land, and this I have in recompence of my love and loyalty. For to wisse (saith he) I pray you leave these limish speeches, and let vs call to minde where we may best take by cloke for your gowns: for you see, such is our weake estate, that if we should rashly lay out that little money which is in the purse, we might possibly be unprouided of all other necessities: Wherefore whilsoeuer should chance hereafter, it is best to haue something against a rainy day: And asaine you knowe within these eight or nine dayes, I haue five pound to pay to Master P. which must be come, there is no shift, otherwile I am like to sustaine treble dammage. T. T. (quoth he) what take you to one of those matters: alas I aske you nothing, I would to God I were once rid of this trouble: I pray you let mee take some rest, for my head akes (God help me) as if it would goe in pieces I wis you feele not my paine, and you take little care for my griefe: Wherefore I pray you send my goodnight word that they may not come, for I feele my selfe very ill at ease. But so (quoth he) I will neuer breake cu- stone, nor so much as gaue you any count offer, they shall come sure, and be entertained in the best manner I may. Well (quoth he) I would to God you would leave me, that I might take a little rest, and then doe as you list. Upon these speeches the Purse straight steps in, and roundly saies vnto the care. I pray you saye doe not force her to saye words, for she makes her head light, and doth great harue to a woman in her case, especially her bairnes being so light for want of sleepe: now besides, she is God knowes, a woman of a tender and choise complexion, and with that she braynes the Curtaines about the bed. Thus to the pure man who in suspence till the next day that the Colligians, who shall play their parts so kindly, and gaue you into the hands with their quins accomants,

that

No more like  
the woman I  
was, than an  
apple is like an  
Oyster.

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that his courage will be wholly quaild, and he ready (if they should  
 bid him, like the pockball child, even to eat down with the dogs) ra-  
 ther than he should displease them. But to proceed, he in the meane  
 while is double diligence, to provide all things against their coming,  
 according to his ability, and by reason of his wines words, he buys  
 more meat, and prepares a great deale better chere than he thought  
 to have done. At their coming he is ready to welcome them with  
 his cup in hand, and all the kinanells that may be shewed. Then doth  
 he trudge bare headed by and downe the house, with a cheerfull coun-  
 tenance, like a good Affe fit to beare the burthen: he brings the Was-  
 shes by to his wife, and comming first to her himselfe, he tels her of  
 their coming. Thus quoth she, I had rather they had kept at home,  
 and so they should haue, if they knewe their little pleasure was in  
 their coming. Say I pray you wife (saith he) give them good coun-  
 tenance, seeing they be come for good will, with that they enter, and  
 after mutuall greetings, with much goodly ceremonies, sit downe they  
 sit and there spend the whole day, in makinge their stales, dining, and  
 in makinge an afternoones repast, does the in party suppinge at her  
 bedside, and at the creable, where they discharge their parts so well,  
 in helping him along with his good Wine and Sugar, that the poore  
 man cominge off to cheere them, doth well perceiue it, and grieues  
 inwardly thereat, howe soeuer he couers his discontent with a merry  
 countenance. But they not caring howe the game goes, take their pe-  
 nnyworths of that cheere which is before them, neuer asking howe it  
 comes there, and so they merrily passe the time away, prating and  
 tattling of many good matters. Afterward the poore man trots by and  
 dolours away, to get his wife the foule stales and all other things  
 thereto suitable, whereby he sets himselfe soundly in debt: sometimes  
 he is troubled with the childs bawling, sometimes he is brayld at  
 by the nurse: then his wife complains, that she was neuer well since  
 she was brought to bed, then hee sees his purses empty, deniing  
 by what meanes to discharge his debts, and lessen his expences:  
 then resolves hee to diminish his olde part, and augment his wines  
 baner, he will goe all the yeere in one hure, and make two paire  
 of shoes serue him a twelue moneth, keeping one paire for holy  
 daies, another for workinge days, and a third for the other yeere.  
 Thus according to his olde custome, hee goes by to the church in  
 Robe pound, and for all the time and by steppe while that he is there,

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he would not yet be out againe, but doth then willingly consume himselfe in continuall care, sorrow and trouble, till death doth set him free.

### CHAP. III.

#### The Humour of a woman that hath a charge of children.

**T**he next Humour that is by nature incident to a woman, is when the Husband hath bene married nine or ten yeeres, hath five or six children, hath passed many euill dayes, vniquiet nights, and troubles aforesaid, hath his lusty youthfullnesse spent, so that it is now high time for him to repent. But such is his grosse folly that he cannot, and such his dullnesse, though the continuall vexations, which haue tained and wearied him, that he cares not what order his wife saith of doth, but is haraged like an old Ass, which being be-  
 topped the whip will not wile mend his pace but he studds neuer so much: And so will he be to those of his daughters marriageable which is some kinde made by their wanton trickes, their playing, dancing, and other youthfull foyes, but he keeps them backe, having gotten small seruings to, to buye maintaine, and furnish them as they like for, with clothes, bettrey, linnen, and other ornaments, as they should be for those rankes. First, that they may be the father such unto by lusty Gallants: Secondly, because his de-  
 nyng hereof should nothing auale: for his wife which knowes her daughters humours better thane, when she sees of the like paces, will see that they shall be all nothing. Thirdly, they peradventure, bearing right waiuers mindes, if their father keeps them short, will finde some other friends that shall afford it them. The poore man being thus perplexed on all sides, by reason of the excessive charges which he must be at, will (as it is likely) bee but poorly attired himselfe, not caring how he gets to her may kill out, but it weene so barely, and would be glad to scape so: But as the Fish in the Pond, which would also think himselfe well, though wanting former liberty, if he might be suffered to continue, is cut off before his time: So is likewise this poore man feared, being once plunged in the perplexing Pond, as rather to bind or encrease his drowning: for howe euer when he considers the aforesaid charges and troubles,

Being tyred  
with holding,  
as a hackney  
lade with  
trauell,

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troubles, he begins to haue no ioy of himselfe, and is no more moued than a tyred Iade, which seareth not for the spurre: yet for the furthering of his Wife and Daughters, so that he may haue peace at home, and enioy an easie bondage, he must strudge by and downe, early and late about his businesse, in that course of life which he professeth;

Sometimes hee touneys thirty or forty miles off, about his affaires: Another time, twise so farre to the Tearme or Wifes, concerning some old matter in Law, which was begun by his Grandfather, and not yet towards an end: he puts on a paire of Boots of seuen paces old, which haue bene cobled so oft, that they are now a foot for thirtie for him, so that the top of the Boot reaches no further than the calfe of his leg, he hath a paire of spurs of the old making, whereof the one wants a rowell, and the other for want of Leathers, is fastened to his foot with a point: He puts a laced Coat on his backe, which he hath had six or seuen paces, which he neuer wore but vpon High-dances, whose fashion is growne cleane out of request, by reason of new inuented Counters: Whatsoeuer sports or pleasures he lightes on (by the way on his iourney) he takes no ioy in them, because his minde is altogether on his troubles at home: he fares hard by the way, as also his page boye, (if hee haue one) his man folloves him in a turnd suit, with a sword by his side, which was found vnder a hedge at the siege of Breda: he hath a Coat on his backe, which euery man may know was neuer made for him, as hee not present when it was cut out: for the lunge on his shoulders comes downe halfe way his arme, and the shirt-tails much below his waist: To be short, the poore man goes euery way as nere as may bee, for hee remembers at what charges hee is at home, and knowes not what it will cost him, in Facing his Councelloys, Attorneys, and Petty foggers, which will doe nothing without present pay: hee dispatcheth his businesse speedily, and spends his hours with such hast, to auoid greater charges, that hee rests no where by the way. And hereby it chanceth that many times he comes home at such an houre, as is as nere morning as to night, and findes nothing to eat, for his Wife and seruants are in bed, all which betakes patiently being now well used to such contentment: Surcely in my part, I thinke that God sends such conseruity and discreesse to those onely whose god and milde nature, he knowes to be such, that they will take all things in good part.

But



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But to proceed, it is very likely that the poore man is very weary, his heart heavy, by reason of the care and thought which hee hath of his businesse: and it may bee (hee likes to bee welcome to his owne house, and there to refresh himselfe) howsoever he forgets not his former blage. But it falls out otherwise, for his wife begins to chide whose words carries such a sway with the seruants, that whatsoeuer their spallier faith, they make small account of it: but if thir mistress command any thing it is presently done, and her humour followed in all things, else must they packe out of seruice: so that it bootes not him to bid them doe any thing, or rebuke them for not doing it: And his poore man that hath borne with him, dares not likewise open his mouth to call for any victuals to comfort himselfe, or for the boyes, lest they should suspect him to be of his spalliers faction, (who being wise, and of a quiet and mild nature) is loth to make any stirre or breed any disquietnesse in the house, and therefore takes all in good part, and sits him downe farre from the fire though he be very cold: But his wife and children stand round about it, but all their eyes are cast on her, who looks on her husband with an angry countenance, not caring to provide ought for his supper: but contrariwise taunts him with sharpe and shrewish speeches, whereto for the most part, he answers not a word, but sometimes (perhaps being vexed, though hunger or wearinesse, or the unkindnesse of his wife) he doth thus utter his minde. Well wife, you can looke well enough to your selfe, but as for me, I am both weary and hungry, having neither eaten nor drunk all this day, and being beside wet to the very skinne, yet you make no reckoning to provide any thing for my supper.

Ah (quoth shee) you doe well to begin first lest I should, which haue most cause to speake: Have you not done very well (thinke ye) to take your wian with you, and leaue me no body to wite the clothes? Now before God, I haue had more losse in my Linnen, than you will get this twelue moneth: Forsooke, you shut the Ven-coat doze very well, did you not? When the For got in, and eat up foure of my best good Hennes, as you (to your cost will some find) by the masse, if you liue long, you will bee the poorest of your kin. Well wife (saith the Good man) be no such words I pray you, God be thanked I haue enough, and more shall haue when it pleaseth him: and I tell you, I haue good men of my kin. But quoth

D

He,



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tho, I know not where they be, nor what they are worth. Well (saith he) they are of credit and ability too. But for all that quoth she they doe you small good. As much good (saith he) as any of yours. As any mine (saith she) & that she spake with such a high Note, that the house rung withall, saying: By Cocks soule, were it not for my Friends, you would doe but for ill.

Well god wife (saith he,) let vs leave this talk: Say (saith she) if they heard what you said, they would answer you well enough. The god man holds his peace, fearing lest she should tell them; being of greater ability than he was: and besides, because he was loath that they should be offended with him. Then one of the children sals a crying, and he perhaps, which his father loued best, thereupon the Mother presently toke a rod, turned by the childes taile, & whipt him wel fanoziedly; and the more to despyght and anger her husband than for ought else. The god-man being herewith somewhat moued, wils her to leaue beating the child, the twing by his bended bowes that he was not a little angry at her doings. How gyp with amurren (quoth she) you are not troubled with them, they cost you nothing, but it is I that haue all the paines with them night and day. Then comes in the Nurse with her verdict, and thus she begins, saying: D Sy: you know not what a hand she hath with them, and we also that tend them. Then comes in the Chamber-maid with her due Eggs, In god saith Sy: it is a shame for you, that at your coming home, when all the whole house should be glad thereof, that you should contrariwise put it thus out of quiet: Saith he, (is it I that make this stirre?)

Then is the whole household against him, when he seeing himselfe thus baited on all sides, (and the match so vnequall,) gets him to bed quietly without his supper, all wet and durty; or if he doe slee, he hath but thin fare: and being in bed where he should take his rest, he is so disquieted with the children, whom the Nurse and his Wife (doth on purpose set on crying,) to anger him the more, that for his life he cannot sleepe one winke.

Thus is he vexed with continuall troubles, wherewith he seemeth to be wel pleased, and would not though he might be free from them, but doth therein spend his miserable and unhappy life.

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### CHAP. V.

The humour of a woman that marries her  
inferiour by birth.

**A** Woman inclined to another kinde of humour, which is, when the husband hath bene married, and hath passed so many troubles, that he is wearied therewith, his lusty youthfull bloud growne cold, is matched with a wife of better birth than himselfe, and perhaps younger, both which things are very dangerous, & no wise man should sake his owne spoile, by wrapping himselfe in either of those bonds, because they are so repugnant, that it is both against reason and nature to accord them. Sometimes they haue Children, sometimes they haue none, yet this notwithstanding, the Wife can take no paines, yet must be maintained according to her degree, to the Husbands exceeding charges: for the furnishing whereof, the poore man is forced to take extreme toyle and paines, and yet for all this thanks God, for boughasing him so great a grace, as to be matcht with her: If now and then they grow to hot words together (as oft it happens) then presently in vphaiding and menacing for: she tels him, that her friends did not match her to him to be his dydger, and that she knowes well enough of what lineage she is come, and will brag withall, that when she list to write to her friends and kinsmen, they will presently fetch her away. Thus doth she keepe him in awe, and in a kinde of seruitude, by telling him of them, who would perhaps haue matcht her better, and not with him, but for some pining scape that she hath had before, whereof the poore soule knowes nothing, or if perhaps he hath heard some inking thereof, yet because he is simple, the credit he might giue therunto is quickly dashed by a contrary tale of others subboznd by them, who perchance will not sticke to sweare that this is a slander raised by gull tongues, & forged maliciously against her, as the like is done against many other good women, whose good names are wronged, and brought in question by bad persons on their tipling bench, because themselves cannot obtaine their purpose of them: notwithstanding, if her husband be not able to maintaine her according to her mind, then will she be sure to haue a friend in force: that shall asoord it her, if her husband denie it, and in the end she remembers that such a Gentleman at such a feast

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proffered her a Diamond, or sent her by a messenger some 20. or thirty crowns, which she as then refused, but now purposeth to giue him a kind glance, to renew his affection, who conceiuing some better hope, and meeting some after with her chamber maid, as she is going about some businesse, calls to her, saying: Sister, I would faine speake with you. Sir quoth she say what you please. you know (quoth he) that I haue long loued your mistresse, without obtaining any fauour: but tell me I pray you, did she neuer speak of me in your hearing? In faith sir (saith she) neuer but well: I dare sweare she wishes you no harme. Before God sister saith the Gentleman, if you will shew me some kindnesse herein, and doe my commendations to your mistres, assuring her of my loue and loyalty, it shall be worth a new gowne vnto you, meane while take this in earnest, with that he offers her a peece of gold: she then making a low curse, saith: Sir I thank you for your good will, but I will not take it. By my faith, saith he, but you shall, and with that he forceth it on her, adding these wordes: I pray you let me heare from you to morrow morning. She being glad of such a word, hies her home, and tels her mistres how she met with a Gentleman that was in a passing good baine: to be short after some questions vsed by her mistres, it appeares to be the very same man whom she would faine intrap. I tell thee, saith she to her maid, if he be as kind as he is proper, he were worthy to be any womans loue. Belene man mistres (saith the maid) his very countenance shewes that he is kind, it seemes that he was only made for loue, and withall he is wealthy, and thereby able to maintaine her beauty and her person in braverie whom he affects. By this light (saith the mistres) I can get nothing of my husband. The more br wife you (saith the maid) so be so vsed. Alas quoth she, what shall I doe? I haue had him so long, that I cannot now set my heart on any other, Tush (quoth the maid) it is a folly for any woman to set her hart so on any man, for you know they care not how they vse vs when they are once Lordes ouer vs. Beside your husband, though he would, yet cannot maintaine and keepe you according to your degree: but he of whom I speake will furnish and maintaine you gallantly, what garments soeuer you will haue: and what coloz and fashion soeuer you like best, you shall presently haue it, so that there wants nothing else, saue only a quaint excuse to my master, making him belene you had it by some other meanes. By my troth quoth her mistresse, I know not

A maid fit for  
such adrestres.

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not what to say. Well Mistresse (saith the maid) advise you well, I haue promised to giue him an answer to morrow morning. Alas (saith the other) how shall we doe: Thus mistresse answers the maid; let me alone: As I goe to morrow to the market I am sure he will watch to meet with me, that he may know what news: then I will tell him that you will not agree to his desire for feare of discredit, this will giue him a little hope, and so we shall fall into further talke, and I doubt not but to handle the matter well enough. According to promise next morning to market shee hies, somewhat more early than shee was wont, and by the way shee meets with this lusty Gallant, who hath waited for her at least three houres: he hath no sooner spied her but he presently makes towards her, and after comming thus salutes her: Sister, good morrow, what newes I pray, and how doth your faire Mistresse? I saith sir (saith shee) shee is at home very penurious, and out of patience, I thinke, that neuer any woman had such a froward husband. Ah villaine (saith shee) the Deuill take him. Amen (saith the maid) for both my Mistresse and all the servants are weary with tarrying with him. Out on him haue (saith he) but I pray you tell me what answer gaue your Mistresse touching my suit? In saith (quoth shee) I spake vnto her, but shee would not agree therunto, for shee is wonderfully afraid to purchase her selfe discredit, and is besides, plagued with such a froward and suspicious husband, that although shee were neuer so willing, yet could shee not, being continually watched by him, his mother and brethren: I thinke on my conscience vniuersally that it were that shee spake to you the other day, the worse woman talkt not with any man these foure moneths: yet shee speaks very often of you, and I am well assured, that if shee would bend her minde to loue, shee would chuse you before all men in the world. Shee being raiued with these words, replies thus: Sweet sister, I pray you be my friend herein, and I will alwayes rest at your command. In good faith (saith shee) I haue done more for you already than ever I did for any man in my life. And thinke not (saith shee) that I will be vniuersally of your kindnesse, but what would you counsell mee to doe? I saith sir (saith shee) I thinke it best that you should speake with her your selfe, and now you haue an excellent opportunity, for my Master hath refused to giue her a gowne, wherewith shee doymes not a little: you shall doe well

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well therefore to be to morrow at the Church, and there salute her, telling her boldly your desire: you may also offer her what you thinke good, but I know she will take nothing: marry she will thinke the better of you, knowing thereby your frank and bountifull nature, & (saith he) I would she would gladly take that which I would gladly bestow on her. Say, answers the maid, I know she will not, for you neuer knew a more honest woman: but she tell ye, how ye may doe it afterwarde: Look what ye purpose to bestow on her, you shall deliver vnto me, I will do my best to perswade her to take it, but I cannot assure you that I shall preuaile. Surely sister (saith he) this is very good counsell: here withall they part, and she returns home, laughing to her selfe: which her spirituall seeing, demands of her the cause thereof. Marry (saith the maid) this knave Gentleman is all on fire, to morrow he will be at Church, purposing there to speake with you: now must you demaunde your selfe wisely, and make very strange of it, but stand not off to much lest you dismay him cleane: as you will not wholly grant, so must you feed him with some hope. She hauing her lesson thus taught by her maid, gets her vp betimes the next morning and to the Church she goes, where this amorous gallant hath awaited for her coming ever since foure a clocke. She being set in her pew, makes shew as if she were devoutly at her prayers, when God hath her deuotion bent to the seruice of another saint: It were worthy the noting to see how like an image she sits, and yet for all her demurenesse, she applies all her fine senses, and that full zealously in this new humour of religion. To be short, he scales vnto her, breaking vnto her, from the belfery vnto her pew, and being come graces her after the amorous order, and and from greeting, he falls to courtting, whereto she doth in no wise yeeld constant, neither will she thinke ought that he offers, yet answers him after such a sort, that he doth assuredly gather that she loues him thereby, & thinks only for feare of discredit: whereat he is not a little iornd, and hauing spent his time to no good purpose, he takes his leaue, and she hauing home to her counsellor, acquaints her what hath passed betwixt them, who thereupon takes occasion to say thus, spirituall sister, I know well that now he longs to speake with me, but at our meeting I will tell him that you will yeeld to nothing, for which I will thinke my selfe forry: And I will wode withall, that my matter is gone out of towne, and will appoint him to come hither towarde the

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the Evening, with promise that I will let him in, and convey him so secretly into your Chamber, that you shall know nothing thereof. At what time you must seeme to be highly offended; and if you be wise, you will make him buy his pleasure with some Coll, which will cause him to esteeme the more of you: tell him that you will cry out, and then doe you call me: By handling him thus, I can assure you that you shall get more of him, than if you had peered at the first. All this while I will haue in my keeping that which he will giue you, for he hath appointed to deliuer it me to morrow, and I will make him beléue, that you would by no means take it. But when the matter is brought to this passe, then will I make shew to offer you his gift before him, telling you, that he is willing to bestow it on you, to buy you a Colours cloth withall: When will you chuse, and seeme to be angry with me for receiuing it, charging me to deliuer it backe againe to him, but be sure I will say it by safe enough. Well demised Iench (saith the Bishop) I am content it shall be so. This plot being thus laid, the crafty Iench goes presently to find out this lolly Gallant, whose first word is: what newes?

Now in god faith say (saith she) the matter is no further forwards, than if it were yet to begin: yet because I haue medled so far in it, I would be loth I should not bring it about, for I feare that she will complaine of me to her husband and Friends: but if I could perswade her by any means to receiue your gifts, then out of question the matter were dispatcht: and in god faith We try once more: I haue one good helpe, and that is this: my Maister (as I told you before) will not giue her a new Colours, at which unkindnesse, shee stomps mightily.

The hot louer hearing this, giues her presently twenty Crownes for her good wil, whereupon she speaks thus: I god faith say, I know not how it cometh to passe, but sure I am, I neuer did so much for any man before, as I haue done herewith for you: Well say, what danger I haue put my selfe in for your sake: for if my Maister should haue any inkling of it, I were utterly undone: yet for you I will hazard a little further: I knowe howe loue you well, and as god hap is, my Maister is not now in towne, if you therefore will bee about the doore towards Sir of the Clocke at night I will let you in, and so convey you secretly into my Masters Chamber, who doth sleep very soundly: for you knowe he is but young: being there I could

Better than  
two yeares  
wages and  
foode get.

with



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Iust a: Lev.  
mattis lips.

with you got to bed to her, and so; the rest you need not (I trust) any  
tuto: I protest that I know no other means for the compassing of  
this matter, perhaps it will sudge: For it is a great matter, when a  
Loner and his mistres are both together naked and in the darke,  
which doth help for ward a womans conceit to that which in day time  
perhaps she would hardly grant. Oh my sweet friend (qd. he) for this  
kindnesse my Purse shall be at thy command. To bee short, night  
comes, he is there according to promise, whom the straight conueys  
into her mistres chamber, then he presently undiothes himselfe, and  
steps softly into her bed, and being once in, he begins to embrace her;  
hereat (she that serves till then allape) starts vp on a sudden, and  
with a fearefull voice asks who is there: it is I sweet mistres saith  
he, feare nothing. Ah (qd she) thinke you to pzeuile thus: No, no,  
and with that she makes as though she would rise, and call her maid,  
who answers not a word but alas for pity, like an industrious servant  
leaves her at her greatest need. She therfore (good woman) seeing that  
she is forsaken sayes with a sigh, Ah me, I am betrayed: then begin  
they a stout battell, he vying his advantage, she faintly resisting,  
but alas what can a naked woman doe against a resolute loner: there  
is therefore no other remedy, but that at length (poore soule,) being  
out of breath with struing, she must needs yeld to the stronger: She  
would faine haue cried out (God wot) had it not bin for feares of dis-  
credit: for thereby her name might haue bene brought in question,  
therefore all things considered, she doth, unwillingly God knowes,  
let him supply her husbands place, garnishing his temples, for pure  
good will, with Aasons badge. Thus hath she got a new Colone,  
which her good man refused to giue her, to blear whose eyes, and  
keepe him from suspicion, she gets her mother in her husbands sight  
to bring home the cloth and giue it her, as though it were her coll: and  
lest also she should suspect any thing, she makes her believe she bought  
it with the money which she got by selling good commodities which her  
husband knew not of: But it may bee (and oft happens so) that the  
mother is priuy to the whole matter, and a furtherer thereof: After  
this gown she must haue another, and two or three gold embrothered  
girdles, and other such costly knacks, which the Husband seeing, will  
in the end suspect somewhat, and begin to doubt of his wifes hone-  
sty, or shall perhaps receiue some aduertisement thereof from some  
friend or kinsman: for no such matter can be long kept close, but in  
the



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the end will by some means or other be made knowne and discovered: When falls hee into a frantick beine of Zealousie, watching his Wives close packing: and for the better finding of it out, hee comes home on a sudden about midnight, thinking then to discover all, and yet perhaps may misse his purpose. Another time coming in at unawares he seeth some thing that he likes not, and then in a fury falls on railing, but be sure that she answers him home, not yielding an inch unto him: for besides the advantage of the sight, which is waged by her owne trusty weapon (her tongue I mean) she knowing with all that she is of better birth, hits him in the teeth therewith, and threatens him to tell her friends how hardly he doth use her. To be short, the poore man shall neuer have good day with her, but either with thought of her incontinency, or if he speake to her, he is borne down with scolding lies, and despised of his owne servants: his state runs to ruine, his wealth decays, his body dyes by, and weares away with griefe: he growes desperat and carelesse. Thus is he plunged in Lobs pound, wearied in a world of discontents, wherein notwithstanding he takes delight, hauing no desire to change his state, but rather if he were out, and knew what would follow, yet would he neuer rest till he had gotten in againe, there to spend and end (as now he must) his life in griefe and misery.

### CHAP. VI.

The Humour of a Woman that strives to  
master her Husband.

**T**he northymoz wherunto a woman is addicted, is, when the husband hath got a faire young wife, who is properely fine, in whom he takes great delight: yet perhaps she is bent altogether to crosse & thwart: the man being of a kindand mild nature, loving her intirely, and maintaines her as well as he can, notwithstanding her srowardnesse: It may be also that she hath care of his credit and honesty, and doth abhorre such lechennesse, as she of whom we spake before did use, yet hath she neuertheless an extreme desire of soveraignty, (which is knowne a common fault amongst Wemen) and to be her husbands commander, and a busie medler in his matters: be he a Judge, a Nobleman, or Gentleman, she will take vpon her to giue sentence, and answer suits, and whatsoeuer she doth he must stand to it.

C

This

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This is (I say) a generall imperfection of Women, be they neuer so honestly, neuer so kindly vsed, and haue neuer so much wealth and ease, to strue for the Batchers, and be in odde contrary humours, of purpose to keepe her husband in continuall thought and care how to please her.

He gets him by betimes in the morning leauing her in bed, to take her ease, while he stirs about the house and dispatcheth his businesse, looke to the seruants that they loyter not, causeth dinner to be made ready, the cloth to be laid, and when all things are ready he sends one to desire her to come downe, who brings backe answer that shee is not disposed to dine. Nay (saith he) I will neuer sit downe, nor eat a bit till she be here: So receiuing his second message by his maid, or perhaps by one of his children, replies thus: Doe tell him again that I will not dine to day. He hearing this, is not yet satisfied, but sends likewise the third time, and in the end goes himself, and thus begins, How now, what ayles you Maie, that you will eat no meat: here to shee answers not a word. The poore man maruels to see her in this melancholly dumps, (although perhaps shee hath plaid this pageant many times before) and bseth all intreaty he may to know of her the cause thereof: but in vaine, for indeed there is no cause at all, but only a more mockery: Sometimes she will persist so obstinately in this humour, that for all the perswasions and kindnesse that he can vse, she will not come. Sometimes it may be she will, and then he must lead her by the hand like a bride, and set her chaire ready for her, meane while it is so long before he can get her downe, that the meat is cold when it comes to the table. Being set she will not eat one bit, and he seeing that (like a kind Maie) will fast likewise: whereat she smiles inwardly, hauing brought him so to her bow, first in crossing him, then in making him to fast from dinner: wherein (to say the truth) shee hath reason, for what needs a woman to seeke his fauour, who doth already loue her, and shew her all the kindnesse that hee can. Sometimes the good man riding abroad about his businesse, meets with two or three of his friends, with whom perhaps hee hath some dealings, and hath bene long acquainted with them: It may be also that he invites them home to his house, as one friend will doe to another, and sends his man before to his wife to make all things ready in the best sort that she can for their intertainment: the poore serving-man gallops in forth halse, that both himselfe and his horse is all on a sweat:

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(Sweet, when he comes home he doth his errand to his mistress, telling her withall that the guests which his master brings are men of good account. Now by my faith (saith she) I will not meddle in it, he thinks belike that I have nothing else to doe, but dudge about to prepare banquets for his companions, he should haue come himselfe with a vengeance, and why did he not? Forsooth (saith the seruant) I know not, but thus he bad me tell you. Soe too (saith she) you are a knaue that meddles in moze matters than you haue thanks for. The poze fellow hearing this holds his peace, she in a fume brings by into her chamber, and which is worse, sends out her seruants, some one way, some another: as for her maids, they haue their lesson taught them wel enough, knowing by custome how to behaue themselves to weary their Master: well, he comes home with his afore-said friends, calls presently for some of his seruants: but one of the maids makes answer, of whom he demands whether all things be ready: In good faith sir my mistress is very sicke, and here is no body else can doe any thing: with that he being angry leads his friends into the hall, or some other place according to his estate, where hee findes neither fire made nor cloth laid. Judge then in what a taking he is, although it may be that his friends perceived by the sending of his man, that his commandements were not of such force as an act of parliament. The good man being ashamed, calls and gapes first for one man then for another, and yet for all this there comes none, except it be the scullion or some chare woman, that doth vse his house, whom his wife hath left there of purpose, because she knew they could serue to doe nothing. Being herewith not a little moued, by he goes into his wive's chamber, and thus he speaks vnto her: Gods precious woman, why haue ye not done as I wold pee? Why (saith she) you appoint to many things to be done that I know not what to doe. Before God (saith he) and with that he scratches his head, you haue done me a greater displeasure than you thinke: these are the dearest friends that I haue, and now here is nothing to set before them. Why (quoth she) what wold you haue me to doe? I wis if you cast your cards well, you shall finde that we haue no need to make banquets: I wold to God you wold wisen, but sith you will needs be so lusty, euen goe thow with it your selfe on Gods name, for Ile not meddle with it. But what the demill meant ye (saith he) to send all the seruants abroad: Why (quoth she) what did I know that

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you should need them now: yet did she know it well enough, and had of purpose sent them forth on steele errands, the more to anger and despight him: who seeing that he can preuaile nothing, giues o-  
uer talking to her, and gets him downe in a bitter chafe: for it may be that his guests be of such account, and he so much beholding vnto them, that he had rather haue spent a hundred crowns than it should so haue fallen out. But she cares not a whit, being well assured, that howsoeuer she thwarts him, he will hold his hands, and in scolding she knowes her selfe to be the better. To be short, the poore man being bered with shame and anger, runs vp and downe the house, gets as many of his seruants together as he can: If his provision bee but slender at home, hee sends presently abroad, in the meane while hee calls for a cleane towell, the best tablecloth, and wrought napkins. But the maid answers him that hee can haue none. Then vp to his wife goes he againe, and tels her that his friends doe intreat her to come downe and beare them company, shewing her what a shame it is, and how discourteously they will take it if she come not: And finally, he bleseth all the fairest speeches that hee can to haue her come, and to welcome and entertaine them for his credits sake. Say, in faith (quoth she) I will not come, they are too great states for my company, and no doubt they would scoorne a poore woman as I am: It may be she will goe, but in such sort, and with such a countenance that it had bene better for him shee had not come at all, for his friends will somewhat perceiue by her looks, and gesture, that howsoeuer they be welcome to the good man, shee had rather haue their rowne than their company. But if she refuse to come (as it is the more likely) then will he aske her for the best towell, table cloth, and napkins. Napkins (quoth she) as though those that be abroad already be not good enough for greater and better men than they are: when my brother or any of my kinsmen come, which are fitts their equals in every respect, they can be content to be serued with them: but were these your guests neuer so great, yet could I not now fulfill your request, though my life should lye on it: for since morning I haue lost my keys of the great chest where all the linnen lies: I pray you bid the maid looke for them, for in good truth I know not what I haue done with them, and no maruell, for I haue so much to doe, that I know not how to bestir my selfe: well I wot, I haue spoiled my selfe with continual care and trouble.

Oh Iyar, Iyar,

Now

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Now in god faith (quoth he) you haue dzest me fairely, but it is no matter: Befeze God Ile bzeake open the Chest. Now surely then (quoth she) you shall doe a great act, I would faine see you doe it, I would soz my part you would bzeake all the chests in the house. The poze man hearing her in these termes, knowes not wel what to doe, but takes that which he next lights on, and therefoze dzifts as well as he can: he caufeth his guests to sit dowlne at the table, and becaufe the hieere then a bzouch is on tilt, and therefoze not very god, he bids one of the seruants bzouch a new barel and fill some fresh dzink, but then there is neither tap noz spigget to be found, soz his wife of purpose hath hidden them out of the way. Towards the end of the dinner he calz soz cheese, and fruit, but there is none in the house, so that he is faine to send to the neighbours soz the same, oz else be vtterly destitute: meane while his boy being at the table with the guests, at last tels them how his mistress faines her selfe sick, because she is not pleased with their matters comming. Well when bed time comes, he can get no cleane sheets noz pillowwheres, because soz swolth the keyes are lost, so that they must be content to lye in those that be foule, and haue ben long laine in. The next moyning they get them gone betimes, seeing by the god wiues countenance that they are nothing welcume. By the way their Lackies tell them what the Gentlemans boy reported, whereat they laught heartily, yet find themselves agreued, vowing neuer to be his guests any moze. The Husband also, getting him vp betimes in the moyning, goes presently to his wife, and thus begins: By Iesus wife, I wuse what you meane to vse me thus. I know not how to liue with you. Then she replies, saying: Now God soz his mercy, am I so troublesome: God wot I am every day (poze soule) troubled with keeping your hogs, your geese, your chickens, I must card, I must spin, and continuall keepe the house, loke to the seruants, and neuer sit still, but topling by and dowlne to shorten my dayes, and make me dye befoze my time, and yet I cannot haue one houres rest, oz quietnes with you, but you are alwayes bzawling, and doe nothing your selfe, but spend and walke your gods and mine with odde Companions. What odde Companions (saith he) as though you know not that these are such men, as can either much further oz much hinder me: It is a signe that you deale very well, that you must stand in distress of such persons. Hereupon she takes occasion to raile and scold all the day long; the man being

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being wearied with her waitwardnesse, and Age (being hasted with Griefe and sorrow) doth unawares overtake him. Briefly, he is in every respect twatched: but such is his folly, that he reckens his paines pleasure, and would not though he might be againe at liberty, out of Lobs pound, or if he would it is now too late: so he must of force continue there, in care, thought, and misery, till death make an end of him and them together.

### CHAP. VII.

#### The Humour of a couetous minded woman.

**T**he next humour belonging to a Woman is, when the Husband is matched to a modest civill woman, who is nothing given to that thwarting and crossing humour whereof I spake before. But be the good or bad, this is a generall rule many wives hold and steadfastly beleave that their owne Husbands are worst of all others. It oft happens that when they match together, they are both young, and entertaine each other with mutuall delights, so much as may be, for a yere or two, or longer: till the vigour of youth grow cold. But the woman drops not so soone as the man: the reason whereof is, because she takes no care, thought, nor griefe beakes not her sleep, and troubles not her head as he doth, but doth wholly addict her thoughts to pleasure and solace. I deny not, that when a woman is with childe she hides many times great paines, and is often very ill at ease, and at the time of her delivrance, she is for the most part, not onely in exceeding paine, but also in no lesse danger of death: But all this is nothing to the Husbands troubles, on whose hands alone doth rest the whole charge, and weight of maintaining the house, and dispatching all matters, which is oftentimes intangled so with controuersies, and so thwarted with croffe fortune, that the worst man is tormented with all vexation of minde.

Being thus wearied, and as it were weyne away with continuall griefe, troublous cogitations, toyle and travell, haue no mind on any other pleasure: whereas she on the other side is as lusty as ever she was: mean while his stock decays, and his state growes worse and worse: and as that diminisheth, so he must perforce shorten her allowance, and maintenance, which is almost as great a Torment to her



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her, as the former. You may be well assured, that this change in him makes her also change her countenance: from spirit and cheerfulness, to lowering melancholy, seeking occasions of disagreements, and blee them in such sort, that their former love and kinnesse was not so great, as are now their bzaules, iarres, and discords. It doth also oftentimes happen, that the Woman by this meanes waits and consumes all, gining leudly away her husbands goods, which hee with great paines and cares hath gotten. The good man; hee goes euery way as nere as hee can, and warily containes himselfe within his bounds, calling by what his pecerle reuenues are, or what his gaine is by his profession, be it marchandise or other, and then what his expences be: which he finding greater than his commings in, begins to bite the lip and becomes very pensue: his wife and he being afterwards priuate together in their chamber, he speaks thereof vnto her in this manner. In faith wife, I much maruell how it comes to passe that our gods goe away thus, I know not how: I am sure I am as carefull as a man can be, I cannot find in my heart to bestow a new cloake on my selfe, and all to saue money. By my troth Husband (saith she) I doe as much maruell at it as you, I am sure for mine owne part, that I goe as nere in house-keeping euery way as I can.

To hee shewt the poore man not doubting his wife, nor suspecting her ill carriage, after long care and thought concludes, that the cause thereof is his owne ill fortune, which keeps him doونه, and troubleth all his actions with contrary success, but it may be that in proesse of time, some friend of his (being more cleere sighted in the matter, perceiving all goes not well, doth priuily informe him thereof, who being astonished at his report, gets him home with a heauy countenance, which the wife seeing, and knowing her selfe guilty, begins presently to doubt the worst, and perhaps gesseth shrewdly at the author thereof, but howsoeuer she will take such an order, that she will be sure to escape the hurt well enough.

The good man will not presently make any words hereof vnto her, but deferre it a while, and trie in the meane time, whether hee can (of himselfe) gather any further likelihood: so; which purpose hee will tell her, that he must needs ride some ten or twelue miles out of Towne, about some earnest business. Good faith Husband (saith she) I had rather you should send your man, and stay at home your selfe. Not so wife (saith he) but I will be at home againe my selfe within  
thre

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these three or foure dayes, Having told her this tale, hee makes as though he take his iourney, but doth priuily lye in Ambush in such a place, where he may know whatsoeuer is done in the house: But she smelling his drift, sends word to her sweet heart, that hee doe not come in any case, and all the time of his dissembled absence, she carries her selfe, that it giues no likelihood of suspicion: which the silly man seeing, comes out of his Ambush, enters his house, making as if then hee were returned from his iourney: and whereas befoze hee lowyed, now he shewes a cheerefull countenance, being verily perswaded that his friends report is a more lye, and that he thinks so much the rather, because she doth at his coming run to meet him, with such a shew of loue, and doth so embrace and kisse him, that it seems impossible so kind a Creature should play false: But long after (being in bed together,) he thus speakes to her:

Wife, I haue heard reported certaine wordes that like me not. God saith Husband (saith she) I know not what is the cause thereof: I haue noted this great while that you haue bin very pensiue, & was afraid that you had had some great losse, or that some of your friends had bene kild, or taken by the Spaniards. So (saith he) that is not the matter, but a thing which grieues me moze than any such matter can doe. Now God for his mercy (quoth she) I pray you Husband let me know what it is. Parry wife (saith he) a friend of mine told mee that you kept company with R. R. the berieft Russian in all the towne, and a many other matters he told me of you. Whereat she crossing her selfe in token of admiration (though smiling inwardly) replies thus: Woe Husband if this be all, then I pray you giue ouer your pen-siuenesse: I would to God I were as free from all other sin as I am from that, then laying one hand on her head, she thus proceeds: I will not sweare any thing touching him, but I would the Demill had all that is vnder my hand, if I euer touched any mans mouth sa-ving yours, or some of our friends and kinsmen, or such at least as you haue commanded me. Ha, ha, is this the matter? In troth I am glad that you haue told me: I had verily thought it had bene some greater matter, but I know well enough whereupon these speeches grew, and I would that you did likewise know, what moued him to speake them, I know you would not a little marvel, because he hath alwayes professed such friendship towards you. In god saith I am nothing sorry that he hath awaked the sleeping Dog. What meane you

Obbraue dis-  
sembler.

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you by that word (qd he:) Say (quoth she) he not desirous to know it, you shall know it some enough some other time. Birlady (saith he) He know it now. By my troth Husband (saith she) I was oft wonderfully angry when you brought him in hither; yet I forbore to speake of it, because I saw you loved him so well. But speake now (saith he) and tell me what the matter is: Say nay (qd she) it skils not greatly. Goe to wife (saith the good man) tell me, for I will know it. Then takes she him about the necke, and sweetly kissing him, saith thus: Ah my deere husband, what Villaines are these that would sceme to abuse you, whom I honour and love above all men in the world. Tell wife (saith he) I pray thee tell me the man that so misuseth vs. In troth (quoth she) that vile dissembling traitor, that flattering tell tale, that put this bad report in your eares, whom you esteeme so much: reposing such great confidence, in him, he is the only man and none but he, that hath earnestly byged me any time this two yeres to commit folly with him, but God (I praise him) hath given me grace, both to refuse him and his offers, although I were continually troubled and importuned by him: I wis, when you thought he came hither so often for your sake, it was for this cause; for neuer a time that he came, but he was in hand with me to obtain his filthy desire, till in the end I threatened to tell you of it, but I was loth to doe it, fearing, to breed a quarrell betwene you, so long as I was sure to keepe him from doing you herein any injury: Beside, I had still a good hope, that hee would at length giue over, I wis it was no fault of his that hee sped not. Gods for my life (saith the Good man) being in a great rage, what a treacherous Villaine is this: I would neuer haue suspected any such matter in him, for I durst haue put my life in his hands. By this light husband (saith she) if euer he come moze within the doores, or if euer I may know that you haue any shike with him, He keep house no longer with you. Ah deere Husband, and with that she clippes and calls him againe about the neck, should hee so disloyal as to abuse you in this sort, so sweet, so amiable, and so kind a man, who lets me haue any ill in al things: God forbid I should liue so long to become a Trumpet now. But for Gods sake Husband forbid him your house, with whom this knaue hath slandered mee withall, yet I would the deuill had me if euer he made such motion to me: neuer thelesse by Gods grace hee shall not come hence forth in any place whers I am, and with that shee be-

f

gins

Almost as bad  
as Iudas kisser.

The deuill take  
the liar.

Thus is he  
board thorow  
the nose with  
a cushion.

As kind as a  
Scarab, sea-  
zing on a dead  
carrion.

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gins to weepe, and he (kinde soles) doth appease and comfort her, promising and swearing, that he will doe as she will haue him, saue only that he will not forbid him his house, with whose company the other had charged her, and withall he bolues neuer to beleue any more of these reports, nor so much as to hearken to any such tales againe, notwithstanding he stil feels a scruple of suspicion in his conscience: **U**ntill in a while he begins to fall at defiance with his honest friend, who informed him of his wifes wantonnesse, and he seemes to be so deeply besotted with her loue, that you would say he were transforned without inchantment, into A Cleons Maie: his charge of house hold still increaseth, he hath many children, and is perplexed on euery side: but his wife followes her pleasure farre more than before, for though it bee neuer so openly knowne, yet will no man tell him thereof, because they know that he will not beleue them (and which is more ridiculous, he that abuseth him most, shall bee best welcome vnto him of any. **S**o he dyeth, age will ouertake him, and perhaps poverty, from the which he shall neuer be able to raise himselfe. **H**ere the great god and pleasures, that he hath gotten by entering into Aols pound, euery man mockes him, some saith it is pity because he is an honest man: others say, it is not a matter to be sorrowed for, sith it is the common rule of such. **T**hey of the better sort will forgoe his company: thus liues he in paine, griefe, and disgrace, which he takes for great pleasure, and therein will continue till death end him off.

## CHAP. VIII.

The humour of a woman that still desires to be gadding abroad.

**T**He next humour of a woman is, when the husband hath bene in Aols pound some time or six yeeres, part whereof he hath spent in such pleasure as weelock doth at the first aske, but now the date of these delights is out, he hath perhaps some three or foure children, but his wife is now big againe, and a great deale worse of this childe than she was of any other; **U**ntill hereat the poore man grieues not a little, who takes great paines to get her that which she longs for: well, the time of her lying downe dyauces here, and she is wonderfully out of temper: so that it is greatly feared that she will haue escape.

Then

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Then falls hee on his knees and prayes devoutly for his wife, who some after is brought to bed, wherefore he is not a little iocund, making sure account that God hath heard his prayers. The gossip, kinswomen and neighbours, come in troopes to visit and reioyce for her safe deliuey. She for her part wants no good cherishing, wherby she recouers her strength, and is as fresh and lusty as euer she was.

After her Churching, she is invited by some of her Neighbours, who also invites five or six others of her Neighbours and friends, who is received and sealed with all kindnesse; which Banquet doth perhaps cost her Husband more than would haue kept the house a whole fortnight. And first other she propounds a question and makes a match to goe all together to a certaine Faire, which will be within ten dayes at such a place, to the which place they shall haue a most braue and pleasant iourney by reason of the faire weather, for they will alwayes conclude such an agreement in some of the best seasons of the yere, & she takes vpon her to make this motion, chiefly in regard of her Gossip, which was lately brought a bed, that she may after her long paine and trouble somewhat recreate and refresh her selfe. But she answers her with thanks for her good will, saying, she knowes not how to get leaue of her husband. What (saith the other) that is the least matter of a thousand. Tully Gossip (saith another) stand not vpon that, we will all goe and be merrie, and we will haue with vs my Gossip G. T. my Cousin H. S. though perhaps hee be nothing kind to her: But this is their ordinary phrase, and they undertake this iourney, because they cannot so well obtaine their purposes at home, being to nere their husbands noses. After this agreement, home she comes with a heavy countenance: The good man asketh what she meaneth. Marry (quoth she) the Child is very ill at ease, (though he were in neuer better health since he was borne) his flesh burnes as though it were fire, and as the Surgeon tels me, hee hath refused tooe dy these two dayes, although the doct not say so much till now. He hearing this, and thinking it true, is not a little sorry, goes present to see his Child, and weepes for pittie.

Well, might comes, to bed they goe, and then she fetching a sigh, begins thus: Husband, I see you haue forgotten me. How means you that (saith he) Marry (quoth she) doe you not remember that when I was in childbed you said, that if it pleased God that I escaped, I should goe to such a Faire with my Gossips and neighbours to make

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merry, and there by my selfe, but now I heare you not talke of it. In troth wife (saith he) my head is troubled with so many matters, and such a deale of businesse: that I haue no leasure to thinke on any thing else: but there is no time past yet, the Faire will not bee this for night. By my troth (quoth she) I shall not be well vntill I goe. Well wife (saith he) content your selfe: for if I can by any meanes get so much money yee shall goe. You know it is not little that wee shall spend there: yea, more I wis than will be my ease to lay out. Good Christ (quoth she) is it now come to that: you promised me absolutely, without either ifs or ands: before God I will goe, whether you will or no: for there goes my Mother, my Cousin T. my Cousin B. and my Cousin R. his wife. If you will not let me goe with them, I know not with whom you will let me goe. He, hearing her thus wilfull, thinke it best for his owne quietnesse, to let her goe, though he straine his purse somewhat the more. The time comes, he hires Horses, buyes her a new riding gowne, and doth furnish her according to her mind: peraduenture there goes in their company a lusty Gallant, that will rollick it by the way on her husbands cost, for his purse must pay for all. It may be he will himselfe, because hee hath neuer a man, or else cannot spare him from his worke. But then is the poore man notably perplexed, for the will of purpose trouble him for every trifle more than he would doe to another: because it doth her good to make a iudge of him, and so much the rather that he may not afterwards haue any desire to goe abroad with her againe.

Sometimes her stirrop is too long: sometimes too short: and hee must still alight to make it fit: sometimes she will weare her cloake sometimes not, and then he must carry it: Then findes she fault with her Horses trotting, which makes her shake, and then she will alight and walke on foot, leauing him to lead the horses: Within a while after they come to a water, then must he be troubled to helpe her by againe. Sometimes she can eat nothing that is in the Inn, then must he (being weary all day with riding) trudge by and dawne all the Towne, to find something that will fit her stomacke: All which notwithstanding, she will not be quiet: and not she onely, but her Cousins also will be bobbing and quibbing him, saying, that he is not worthy to be a womans man. But he is so inured to these Janglings, that he cares not for all their frivolous wordes.

Well, at length to the Faire they come, and then must he play the Squier



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Squier in going before her; making so much roine for them as hee can, when there is any throng or presse of people, (being very chary of his wife, lest she should be hurt or annoyed by thrusting.) These moynes he like a horse, & sweats like a Bul, yet cannot all this please her. Some daunces of the company, which are more such in crownes than her good man, he shewes money on gold things, Hats, like Circles, Jewels, or some such toys, yea, costly toys: which she no sooner sees, but presently she is on fire, vntill she haue the like: When must he herein content her (if he loue his owne ease and haue he money or not, some gift must be made to satisfie her humors. Well, now imagine them going homewards, and thinke his paine and trouble no lesse than it was coming forth her. Horse perhaps both sounder much or trots too hard: which is peradventure by reason of a naile in his foot, or some other mischance. When must he perforce buy, or hire another horse; and if he haue not money enough to doe so, then must he let her ride on his, and he trot by her side like a lackey. By the way he will aske for twenty things, for milke, because she cannot away with their dynt; for Beages, Idling and Chitrie: When they come nere a Towne, he must run before to chuse out the best Inne, euer and anon as she rides, she will of purpose let fall her hand, her spaffe, her Gloves, or something else for him to take up, because she will not haue him idle: When they are come home, she will for a fortnight together do nothing else but gad, up and downe amongst her gossipes, to tell them how many gay and strange things she hath sen, all that hath passed by the way, in going & coming, but especially of her good man, whom she will be sure to blame, saying, y he did her no pleasure in y world, & that she poyse soule, being sick & weary, could not get him to help her, or to provide any thing for her that she liked: And finally, that he hath had no moze care of her, than if she had been a mere stranger.

But he (poore sot,) finding at his returne, all things out of order, is not a little troubled to set them in due frame againe, and toiles exceedingly at his labour, that he may recouer his charges, which he hath bene at in this Journey. But wee, what for Collapping, for Pride, and Idlenesse, will nat let her hands to any thing: and yet if ought goe well, she will say it was through her husbandnesse, and not his wifery: If otherwise, then will she scold and lay the fault thereof on him, although it be her owne doings. To be short, hauing thus gotten a baine of Cadding, she will neuer leave it, and hereby the

poore

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poore man will be utterly spoiled: for both his substance shall bee wasted, his limbs through labour, filled with aches, his feet with the gout, and age comes on him before his time: yet as though this were not euill enough, he will be continually brawling, scolding, and complaining, how he is broken through child bearing. Thus is the silly wyan bp to the eares in Lobs pound, being on each side beset with care and trouble, which he takes for pleasure, and therein languisheth whiles he liues.

### CHAP. IX.

The humour of a curst Queene, married to  
a froward Husband.

**T**he next humour that is incident to a woman, is, when the husband hauing entred very young into Lobs pound, and there fettered himselfe by his too much folly, for a vaine hope of ticklish delights, which lasted but for a yere or two, hath matched himself with a very froward and perverse woman: of which sort there are too many, whose whole desire is to be spitefull and to wear the other parties out, or at least to haue as great a sway as himselfe. But he being crafty, and withall crabbed, will in no wise suffer this vntuned sovereignty, but in sundry manners withstands it. And there hath bene great strife and arguing about this matter betwix themselfe, and now and then some battels: but doe the what they can, either with words or tongue, or hands, notwithstanding their long controwersie: which hath perhaps lasted at the least these twenty yeres, he is still victorious and holds his right: but you must thinke that his winning, for it all this while hath bene no small trouble and vexation vnto him, be like all other as of said euils. All which, as part thereof he hath likewise endured: Well, to be short, he hath perchance three or foure children all married, and by reason of the great paines and trauell that hee hath taken in bringing them vp, providing their portions, maintaining his wife, increasing his stocke, or at least keeping it from being diminished, and liuing with credit amongst his neighbours: At last it may be he hath gotten the gout, or some other dangerous disease, and himselfe is growne old, and thereby feeble, that being set, hee can hardly rise, through an ach that hee hath gat in his armes or legs: When is their long warre come to an end, and the case (as Ploiden saith)

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saith) cleane altered: For his wife being younger than he, and as so-  
licke as ever she was, will now be sure to haue her owne will in de-  
spight of his beards: Heroby the poore man which hath maintained the  
combat so long, is now utterly put downe: his owne children, which  
before he kept in awe well enough, will now take heart to thie elues,  
and if he reprove them for their leueneesse and disobedience, he will  
maintaine them against him to his teeth, which must needs be a great  
griefe vnto him.

But besides all this, he is in doubt of his seruants: for they like-  
wise neglect their former duty, and leane altogether to their spi-  
rituelle: so that he poore man, which now by reason of his sicknesse,  
and feeblenesse of body, hath more need of attendaunce than ever he  
had, shall haue but very little or none at all: For though he be as wise  
and as carefull as ever he was, yet sith he cannot be sure himselfe to  
follow them as he was wont, they contemne and make no more re-  
uerencing of him, than if he were a uicere soles.

Then peraduenture his eldest son, thinking that his father liues  
so long, will take vpon him to guide the house, and dispose all things at  
his pleasure, as (if his father were become an innocent, and could no  
longer looke to things as he was wont:) Iudge you whether the Good  
man seeing himselfe thus abused by his Wife, Children and seruants  
be grieved or not. If he purpose to make his will, they will sake all  
meanes to keepe him from doing it, because they heare an talking,  
that he will bestow somewhat on the parish, or will not bequeath his  
Wife so much as she would haue.

To see short, that they may make arrend of him the sooner, they  
will many times leaue him in his Chamber halfe a day and more  
without meat, fire, or ought else, not one of them comming to see  
what he wants, or to doe him any seruice: his wife is weary of him  
by reason of his spitting, coughing, and groaning.

All the loue and kindnesse, which he had in former times shewed  
vnto her, is quite forgotten: but his wife for superciuity, and his  
crabbednesse towards her: (when shee had lustily moued him,) thus  
she can still as toill remember, as when it was first done: Neither  
will she spare to prate thereof to her Neighbour: telling them that  
he hath bene a bad man, and that shee hath led such a life with him,  
that if she had not bene a woman of great patience, she could neuer  
haue endured to keepe house with so crabbed a Thurle.

She

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She will likewise boldly reproof, and twit him in the face with those former matters, so; it doth yet thewlydly like in her stomach that she could not till now be distressed. But hee that was wont to charme her tongue, and keepe her vnder: who, seeing him now in his distresse and weaknesse, takes aduantage, and continues his bad vsage: seeing also his Children, which should feare and reuerence him, taking part with their Mother, being taught and set on by her: seeing this (I say) and being no lesse angry than grieved, he calls some of them in a rage, and when they are come before him, thus begins hee to his wife.

Wife you are she, whom by the lawes of God and man, I should loue and esteeme more than any thing else in the world and you on the other side should beare the like affection to me: but whether you doe so or not, I referre it to your owne conscience: I tell you I am not well pleased with your vsing of me thus: I thinke you take me still for the Master of the house as before you haue done, but whether you thinke so or not, be sure I will be Master while I liue: yet (you I thanke you, doe vse me and account of me in very right manner: I haue alwayes loued you well, neuer suffered you to lache that which was meet: I haue in like sort loued, and also maintained your Children and mine, according to my degree, and now both you and they doe very vnkindly requise me.

Why (saith she) What would you haue vs to doe: We doe the best we can, but you cannot tell your selfe what you would haue. The better we vse you, and the more we tend you, the worse you are, but you were neuer other, alwayes brawling, and neuer quiet, neuer pleased full nor fasting: I thinke neuer woman was so long troubled with a crooked pottle as I haue bene.

At Dame (saith he) leaue these words, I pray you: then turning him to his eldest sonne, he said: Sonne, I haue married at your behauiour of late toward me, and I tell you I am not well pleased therewith: you are my eldest, and shall bee mine heire, if you be haue your selfe as a child ought to doe: But you begin already to take state vpon you, and to dispose of my goods at your pleasure: I would not wish you to bee so forward, but rather while I liue, to serue and obey me as it becomes you to doe: I haue bene no bad Father vnto you, I haue nothing unpaiied or diminished, but increast that which was left mee by my Father, which if you doe your duty to

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to me (as I did mine to him) I will leave to you after my decease as he left to me; but if you continue in your stubboynesse and disobedience, befoze God (I sweare) I will not bestow one penny or crosse vpon thee.

Here his Wife begins againe to thwart him: Why, what would you haue him doe? It is impossible for any one to please you: he shall haue enough to doe that shall alwayes tend you: I wis it is high time that you and I were both in heauen, you know not your selfe: what would you haue? I maruell what you aile. Tell, well, (saith hee) I pray you be quiet, do not maintaine him thus against me, but it is alwayes your order.

After this, the Mother and Sonne departing, consult together, and conclude, that he is become a Child againe, and because hee hath threatened to disinherit them, they resolve that no man shall be suffered to come and speake with him: His Sonne takes vpon him more than befoze, being bozne out by his Mother: wha together with him, makes euery one beleue that the poore man is become childish, and that he hath lost both his sense and memory.

If any of his honest friends and former acquaintance, which were wont to resort vnto him, come now to aske for him, his wife will thus answer them. Alas he is not to be spoken with: and when he demands the cause thereof, doubting he is dangerously sicke; Ah god Neighbour (quoth she) he is become an Innocent, even a child againe: so that I, poore soule, must guide all the house, & take the whole charge of all things vpon me, hauing none to helpe me: but God bee praised for all,

In saith (saith the other) I am very sorry to heare this, and doe much maruell at it; for it is not long since I saw him, and spoke with him, and then he was in as good memory, and spake with as good sense and reason as euer he did befoze. In truth (saith she) he is now as I tell yee.

Thus doth shee wrong and slander the Poore man, which hath alwayes liued in good credit, and kept his Household in very good order: but you may be well assured, that hee seeing himselfe in his age thus despised and iniured, and being not able to remedy himself, nor stir without help from the place where he is, thereby to acquaint his Friends therewith, which might in his behalfe redresse it, is not a little grieued, bered, and tormented in his minde, with sorrow and anger: so that it is a great maruell hee falls not into despaire;

So:

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For it is enough to make a Saint become impatient to be used thus by those which should obey, serue and honour him. And in my opinion on this is one of the greatest Corosiuues that any man can feele: such is the issue of this great haste and extreme desire to bee in Lobs pound, where he must now remaine perforce, til death do end (at once) both his life and languishing.

### CHAP. X.

The Humour of a woman giuen to all kind of pleasures.

**A** Nother humor incident to a woman by nature is, when the Husband (thinking that Mledlock was of all estates the happiest, and altogether replenished with delight and pleasure) because he saw some of his friends, who for a while after they were married, were very cheerefull and iocund, neuer ceaseth toyling and turmoyling himselfe till he hath gotten into Lobs pound, wherein he is presently caught fast like a Bird in a Net: for this comparison, if we do examine the particulars thereof, doth very fitly resemble his estate. The silly Birds which flye from tree to tree, and from field to field to seeke meat, when they see great deale of corne spilt on the ground, thinke themselves well appaid, and without any feare come hither to feed thereon, picking vp the graines of Corne, but alas they are deceiued, for on a sudden the net is drawne, and they are all fast tide by the legs, and thence carried in a sacke or Panier one vpon another to the Fowlers house, then coopt vp in a Cage. Oh how happy would they thinke themselves, if they were again at their former liberty to fly whether they list; but they wish too late: yet were this all the euill that they would endure, it were well, but (which is worse) they shall some after haue their neckes wrong off, and their little bodie spitted, to be made meat for men to eat.

But they are herein farre more simple then the Birds, for they being fast in Lobs pound, are so besotted with their owne sorowes, that they haue no power to free themselves: So likewise they haue no will to doe it. But to proceed, the wife not louing her Husband, for some defect which is in him, that she may haue some colour for that she doth, makes her Mother and other friends which blame her for it, belieue, that her Husband is bewitched; and by reason of some

Sorcery,



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Sozcery, made for the most part impotent, hereupon she complains of her ill Fortune, resembling it to those, which having the Cup at their noses, cannot drinke: meane while she hath a sweet heart in a corner, who is not bewitched, who bseth her company so long, and with so little heed, that in the end her Husband perceiues it, and falling into the baine of Zealousie, beats her well favouredly, and keeps a soule stirre both with blowes and words, so that she not liking his usage, giues him the slip, but then is he cleane out of patience, and so husbands in this taking are so mad, that they neuer lin seeking them, and would give halfe they are worth to finde her againe: who having thus plaid her pageant, and seeing her Husbonds humioz, compactes with her Mother, whose god will shee will be sure to get by one meanes or other, (whereas at the first she will perhaps thinke hardly of her departure from her husband) shee doth I say so handle the matter with her, that she will make the good man beleue her daughter hath bene all this while at home with her, and that shee came to shun his bad usage, who (had shee tarried with him till then, had bene lamed for euer.

Before God (quoth she) I had rather you should restore her again to me, than beat her thus without cause, for I know that you suspect her wrongfully, and that she hath neuer offended you: I wis I haue straitly examined her about it, but if she would haue bene naught, you did enough to prouoke her: By Gods passion I thinke few women could haue bozne it; Well (it may be) that vpon these or the like termes he takes her againe: it may be also, that they are both desirous to bee diuorced, each accusing other, and seeking to winde themselves againe out of Lobs pould, but in vaine. For either the causes that they alleage are not thought sufficient by the Iudge, how hard soeuer they plead, but must of force continue still together, are laughed to scorn of all that heares the cause: or if they be separated, yet will not all this set them free, but rather plunge them in deeper than before, but neither of them can marry whiles the other liues: and their Chastity so brittle (especially hers,) that hold it cannot, no; long endure.

She who was went to be so frolicke, must needs continue so still; Nay peraduenture, being now without controlment, followes her euill and leud life, more freely than before: and whereas she was but earst a priuate Queene, she is now common in the way of Goddelowship

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lowship; or else some lusty gallant takes her into his house, and shelters her by his nose, which must needs be unto him an exceeding inward griefe, and an open disgrace and shame in the eyes of the world; and which is worse, he knowes not how in the world to remedy it, but must perforce endure both, while this miserable life doth last.

### CHAP. XI.

The humour of a woman to get her Daughter a Husband, hauing made a little wanton escape.

**T**he next humor that a Woman is addicted vnto, is, when a lusty young Gallant hiding at pleasure vp and dowlne the Countrey, but especially to those places of sports and pleasure where the finest Dames and dainty Gydes meet, who can finely mince their pleasures, hauing their tongues trained vp to all kinde of Amorous chat; in which delightfull exercises, this Yonker both by reason of his youth, his loose bringing vp, and naturall Inclination takes a great felicity in such vaine company: and so much the rather, because he findes himselfe alwayes welcommed, and kindly entertained to such places, and the reason is, the comelinesse of his person, his amiable countenance, and quaint behaviour: for who so euer hath these good helpes, shall want no fauour at Womans hands: It may bee also, that his parents are still liuing, and hee their onely ioy, they hauing perhaps no Childe but him, so that all their most delight is in maintaining him bzauely. It may bee also, that hee is newly come to his Lands, and loues to see fashions, though it cost his purse neuer so largely. If any Gentle-woman offer any kindnesse, hee is ready to requite it: and at length, through long pzanling to many places, he lights on one that doth exceedingly please his eye, and inflame his heart: shee is perhaps Daughter to some Gentleman, some citizen, or some worthy Farmer. She hath a cleere complexion, a fine proportion, and wanton eye, a dainty Tongue, and a sharpe wit, by reason of all which good gifts, shee is growne very famous. Shee hath bene wooed, sued, and courted by the bzauest Gallants in that Countrey, of whom perhaps some one being more forward and couragious than the rest, hath offered her such kindnesse,

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nesse, as stickes by her Ribs a good while after, and would needs in-  
force this courtesie with such importunity, that she had not the pow-  
er to resist it: for a woman that hath her fine wits, if she be withall of  
a cherefull sanguine complexion, cannot bee so unkind, or so hard-  
hearted, as to deny, or repulse the petition of an amorous friend, if  
he doe any thing earnestly prosecute the same. And (to be plaine) bee  
she of what Complexion soever, she will be nothing slacke to grant  
such a suit.

But to returne to our purpose, by reason of her tender compassi-  
on, and kind acceptance of his proffered service, it so falls out she hath  
plaid false, then is there no other shift but to keepe it both secret and  
close, and to take such order as they best can, for smothering vp of the  
matter; he that hath done the deed being a poore young man, though  
proper of body, and perhaps can dance very well, by which good qua-  
lity he won her fauour, and within a while after, cropt the flower of  
her maidenhead: he (I say) after a check or two, and no further mat-  
ter, (lest this plying scape should be openly knowne) is warned from  
comming any moze to the house, or frequenting her company what-  
soeuer.

But now you must note, that she being but a simple girle, between  
fourtene and fiftene yeres of age, nothing expert, but rather a no-  
uice in such matters, and hauing bene but lately deceiued, knowes  
not her selfe how it is with her: But her Mother which by long expe-  
rience hath gotten great Iudgement, doth by her colour, her com-  
plaining of paine at her heart and stomacke with other like tokens,  
perceiues it well enough, and hauing (as before I said) cashiered the  
Authoz of the action, then takes she her daughter aside, and schooles  
her so, that in the end she confesseth that hee hath bene dallying with  
her, but she knows not whether to any purpose or not. Her saith her  
Mother, it is to such purpose (as by these signes I know very well)  
that you haue thereby both shamed your selfe and all our friends and  
spoiled your Marriage quite and cleane.

To be short, hauing somewhat chid her after the common order  
for hauing no moze respect nor care of her honesty, (yet not chiding  
very extremely, because she knows the frailty of youth by her owne  
former experience) she concludes thus comfortably: *As it is done,*  
and cannot be altogether remedied, she will seeke (both to hide and  
salue the matter as well as shee can, charging her Daughter to set a

god

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god countenance on it, lest it should be suspected, and to follow her counsell and commandement in all things : whereupon the poze Trench willingly consenteth, then the Mother proceeds thus:

You know Master T. A. that commeth hitier so often, he is you see a proper Gentleman, and a rich Heire, to morrow he hath appointed to be here againe : Look that you giue him god entertainment, and shew him god countenance. When you see mee and the rest of our Guests talking and discoursing together, euer and anon cast your Eye on him, in the kindest and louingest manner that you can: If he seeme desirous to speak with you, be not coy, but heare him willingly, answer him courteously. If he intreat loue of you, tell him that you know not what it meanes, and that you haue no desire at all to know it: yet thanke him for his god will: for that woman is too vn-courteous and vnciuill, which will not bouchsafe the hearing or gentl'y answering to those that loue her and wish her well.

If he offer you Money, take none in any case: if a Ring, or a Gir-dle, or any such thing, at the first refuse it, yet kindly and with great thanks: but if he vrge it on you twice or thrice, take it, telling him, sith that he wil needs bestow it on you, you wil wear it for his sake. Lastly, when he takes his leaue, aske him when he wil come againe: These instructions being thus giuen: and the plot laid for the fetching in of this kind soale into Lobs pound.

The next day he commeth, and is on all hands moze kindly wel-come and entertained: after dinner, hauing had great chere the Mother sals in talke with the other Guests, and this frolicke Pounce gets him as nere to her daughter as he can, and while the other are hard in chat, he takes her by the hand, and thus begins to court her.

Gentlewoman, I would to God you knew my thoughts. Your thoughts Sir (saith she) how should I know them, except you tell them me: It may be you thinke something that you are loath to tell. Not so (saith he) yet I would you knew it without telling. But that (saith she smiling, is vnpossible. Then (quod he) if I might doe it without offence, I would aduenture to tell you them. Sir (saith she) you may freely speake your pleasure; for I doe so much assure me of your honesty, that I know you will speake nothing that they procure offence.

Then thus (saith he) I acknowledge without faining, that I am farre vnwoorthy of so great a fauour, as to be accepted for your Ser-  
uant

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uant, friend, and Lover, which art so faire, so gentle, and every way so gracious, that I may truly say, you are replenished with all the good gifts that nature can plant in any mortall creature: But if you would vouchsafe me this undeserued grace, my god wil, diligence, & continuall sozwardnesse to serue & please you should neuer faile: but I would therin equal the most loyall Lover that euer liued, I would esteeme you more than any thing else, and tender more your god name and credit than mine alone.

God Sir (quoth she) I heartily thanke you for your kinde offer, but I pray you speake no more of such matters, for I neither know what loue is, nor yet care for knowing it: This is not the lesson that my mother teacheth me now a dayes. Why (saith he) if it please you she shall know nothing of it: yet the other day I heard her talke of preferring you in marriage to one Master C.R. How say you to that (quoth she) Marry (thus answers the Gentleman,) If you would vouchsafe to entertaine me for your Seruant, I would neuer marry, but only relee upon your fauour.

But that (saith she) should be no profit to either of vs both, and beside it would be to my reproach, which I had not thought you would seeke. Nay (qd he) I had rather die than seeke your discredit. Tell Sir (saith she) speake no more hereof, for if my Mother should perceiue it, I were vtterly vndone. And it may be her Mother makes her a signe to giue ouer, fearing that shee doth not play her part well.

At the breaking vp of their amorous Parley, he conueys into her hand a gold ring, or some such toy, desiring her to take it and keepe it for his sake: which at the first, (according to her Mothers precepts) she doth refuse: but vpon his more earnest bzing of it, she is content to take it in the way of honesty, and not on any promise or condition of any farther matter: when it was brought to this passe, the mother makes motion of a Journey to be made the next morning, some ten or twelue miles off, to visit, or feast with some friend, or to some faire, or whatsoeuer other occasion presents it selfe: To this motion they all agree, and afterwards sit downe to supper, where he is placed next the Daughter, who carries her selfe so toward him with her piercing glances, that the young heire is set on fire therewith: Tell, morning comes, they mount on Horsebacke, and by the opinion of themall, there is neuer a Horse in the company that can

carry

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carry double but his ; So the Gull is appointed to haue the maiden ride behinde him, whereof he is not a little proud: and when he seales her hold fast by the middle, (which she doth to stay her selfe the better) he is euen raiulhed with ioy.

After their returning home, which perhaps wil be the same night, the Mother taking her Daughter aside, questions with her, touching all that had passed betwene the amozons Gallant, and her : which when her Daughter hath rehearsed, then proceeds the wily Grandame thus. If he court thee any more (as I know he wil,) then make him answer that thou hast heard thy father and me talke of matching thee with Maister G.R. but that thou hast no desire as yet to be married: if he then offers to make thee his wife, and vse any comparisons of his worth and wealth, as though he were enery way as good as he, thanke him for his good will and kindnesse, and tell him that thou wilt speak with me about it, and that for thy owne part thou couldest find in thy hart to haue him to thy husband rather than any man else; vpon this lesson the Daughter sleepes, reuelning it all night in her minde.

The next morning shee walkes into the Garden, and this lusty Yonker folloves; when hauing giuen her time of the day, hee saies to his former suit. Shee wils him to giue ouer such talke, or shee will leaue his company: Is this the Love you beare me (quoth she) to seek my dishonour? You know well enough that my Father and Mother are minded to bestow me other wise.

Ah my sweet Mistresse (saith hee) I would they did so farre fauour me herein, as they do him, I dare boldly say and sweare it, and without vaine glozy vtter it, that I am euery way his equall. Oh sir, answers she, I would he were like you. Ah sweet Mistres saith he, you deigne to thinke better of me than I deserue, but if you would further vouchsafe mee the other fauour, I should esteeme my selfe most happy. In troth sir, (saith she) it is a thing that I may not doe of my selfe, without the counsell and consent of my Parents, to whom I would gladly moue it, if I thought they would not be offended: But it would be so much the better if you breake the matter vnto them; and bee sure, if they referte the matter to mee, you shall spend so sone as may. Hee being raiulht with these words, and yelding her infinite thanks, trots presently to the Mother, to get her good will.



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To be short, (with some little adw) the matter is brought about, even in such sort as he would desire: they are straightway contracted, and immediately wedded, both because that her Friends feare that the least delay will prevent all, and because he is so hot on the spur, that he thinkes every houre a yeere till it be done. Well, the wedding night comes, wherein she behaves herselfe so (by her Fathers counsell) that he dares sweare on the Bible that he had her Maidenhead.

Within a while after, it comes to his Friends eares, without whose knowledge he hath married himselfe, who are exceeding sorry, knowing there was no mat match for him; and it may bee they have heard withall of his wifes humour: but now there is no remedy, that knot is knit, and cannot bee undone, they must therefore have patience perforce.

Well, hee brings his faire Bride home to his owne house, where (God wot) he hath but a small time of pleasure, for within these or foure moneths after their Marriage, she is brought to Bed: Judge then in what taking the poore man is. If hee put her away, his shame will be publike, shee growes common, and hee not be permitted to marry againe while shee liues, and if hee keepe her still, loue her he cannot, suspect her he will, and she both hate him, and perhaps seeke his end; Finally, all the ioyes, pleasures, and delights which before time they had, are all turned to brawles, banning, cursing and fighting. Thus is he hampered in Lobs pound, where he must of force remaine, till death end his lues miseries.

### CHAP. XII.

The humour of a Woman being matched  
with an ouer-kind Husband.

There is another humour incident to a Woman, which is, when a Young man hath turnoyled and tossed himselfe so long, that with much adw hee hath gotten into Lobs pound, and hath perhaps met with a Wife according to his owne desire, and perchance such a one, that it had bene better for him to haue lighted on another; yet hee likes her so well, that hee  
would

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would not haue mist her for any gold, for in his opinion there is no Woman aloue like vnto her, hee hath a great delight to heare her speake, is proud of his match, and peraduenture is withall of so shepishly a nature, that hee hath purposed wholly to gouerne himselfe by her counsell and direction ; So that if any one speake to him about a bargaine, or whatsoeuer other businessse, hee tels them that hee will haue his Wiues opinion in it, and if shee bee content, hee will goe thow with it ; if not, then will he giue it ouer : Thus is he as tame and pliable, as a Jack-an-Apes to his keeper. If the Prince set forth an Army, and she be vnwilling that hee should goe, who (you may thinke) will aske her leaue, then must he stay at home, fight who will for the Countrey : But if shee bee at any time desirous to haue his comie (which many times she likes better than his company) she wants no Iourneyes to imploy him in, and hee is as ready as a Page to undertake them : If she chide, he answers not a word : generally, whatsoeuer she doth, or howsoeuer, hee thinkes it well done.

Judge now what a case this silly Calfe is in, (Is not hee thinke you, finely dzest) that is in such subiection ? The honestest Woman, and most modest of that Sex, if shee weare the Wretches, shee is so out of reason in taunting and controlling her Husband ; For this is their common fault, and be she neuer so wise, yet, because a Woman, scarce able to gouerne her selfe, much lesse her Husband, and all his affaires ; for were it not so, doubtlesse GOD would haue made her the head: which sith it is othertwise, what can bee moze preposterous, than that the Head should bee gouerned by the Foot ? If then a wise and honest Womans superiorty bee vnfermely, and byed great inconueniences, &c. how is hee dzest (thinke you) if hee light on a fond, wanton, and malicious Dame ? Then (doubtlesse) hee is soundly sped : she will not sticke to keepe a swart heart vnder his nose, yet is hee so blinde that hee can perceiue nothing, but for moze security shee will many times send him packing beyond Sea, about some odde errand, which she will buzge in his eares, and he will performe it at her pleasure, albeit she send him forth at midnight, in Raine, Waile, or snow, for he must be a man fit  
fo:

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For all weathers: Their Children (if they haue any) must needs bee brought vp, apparelled, fed, and taught, onely according to her pleasure: and one speciall point of their learning, is alwayes to make no account of their Father. If any of their Children be Daughters, she will marry them according to her minde to whom she list, when she list, and giue with them what dowry she list, without acquainting him therewith, till she haue concluded the match, and then she tels him, (not to haue his consent) but as a Master may tell his seruant, to giue him direction how to behaue himselfe to deale therein: Finally, she orders all things as she thinkes best her selfe, making no more account of him, (especially if he be in yeeres,) than men doe of an old Horse which is past labour.

Thus is hee melowed by in Lobs pound, plunged in a Sea of cares and Cogitations, yet he (kinde Foole) deemes himselfe most happy in his unhappinesse, where he must now perforce remaine while his life doth last, and great pity it were he should want it, sith he likes it so well.

### CHAP. XIII.

The humour of a Woman whose Husband  
is gone beyond the Sea vpon  
some businesse.

**A** nother Humour of a Woman is, when the Husband hath ben married some seuen or eight yeeres more or lesse, and as shee thinkes hee hath met with a good Wife as any man can haue, with whom hee hath continued all the aforesaid time, with great delights and pleasures: But admit hee bee a Gentleman, and that hee is desirous to purchase honour by following Armes, and in this humour he is resolu'd to make a step abroad, and not to tarry alwayes like a cowardly Drone by the smoake of his owne chimney: but when he is ready to depart, she hauing her cheeks blubbered with tears, sals about his neck, cols, kisseth, and embraceth him, then weeping, sighing, and sobbing, she thus begins to him.

Oh sweet Husband, wilt thou now leave mee: Will you thus

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depart from mee, and from your loving Childzen, which know not when we shall see you againe. or whether you shall ever come home againe or no? Alas sweet Husband goe not; Tarry with vs still, if you leaue vs, we are vtterly vndone.

His sweet wife (saith he) dissuade me not from this enterprize, which concernes my credit and allegiance; for it is our Princes commandement, and I must obey: but be you well assured, I will not be long from you (if it please God.)

Thus doth hee comfort and quiet her in the best sort that hee can, and be she neuer so unfortunate, be her teares neuer so many, her intreaty neuer so forcible, yet goe hee will, esteeming his renowne and duty to his Prince and countrey, more than wife, and Childzen, though next to it, hee esteeme and loue them chiefest of all other. And at his departure he recommends them to the care and courtesie of his chiefest Friends: Yet some there be whose tender hearts melt so easily with kind compassion, that one of their wiues teares, and the least of their intreats, will tye them so fast by the Leg at home, that they will not stirre one foot from her sweet side, neither for King nor Keyser, wealth nor honour. These are Trauellers, and vnwoorthy to be called Gentlemen.

But to returne to this valourous and brave minded Gentleman, of whom we spake before, it may be, that either by the long continuance of the warres, or by his misfortunes, in being taken Prisoner, or some other let, hee comes not home in foure or five yeeres, and all that while there is no newes of him, you may be sure that his wife is a sorrowfull woman, and wholly surcharged with griefe, being thus deprived of her loving Mate, and hearing nothing of his estate. But all things haue an end, and shee seeing that in so long time, shee can heare no tydings of him, doth peremptorily conclude that he is dead. Then considering to liue comfortlesse in widowes estate, were an vnroath life, she determines to marry her selfe to some one, so soon as conveniently she may, which will be soone enough, for a faire woman, if willing, can want no choyce. Thus the former sorrow is somewhat alaid, and within a while after, cleane extinguish't by the fresh delights, pleasures, contents, and sollace, which

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which this new choyce doth yeld. So that now her other Husband is wholly forgotten, her Childzen which shee had by him little regarded and the Goods which belong to them, are spent on others, while the poore wretches want things needfull, but not blowes and hard usage. To bee short, the teares which she bestowed on her other husband at his departure are dried up, her tymbres banished. And whosoever should see her with this second Husband, and what kindnesse she shewes unto him, would verily thinke that she loues him far better then shee did the first, who in the meane while is either taken prisoner, or else fighting in extreme hazzard of his life.

But in the end it chaunceth so, that by paying his ransom, (if hee haue bene Prisoner,) home hee comes, cleane changed through the many troubles he hath had : And being come some what nere, failes not to enquire of his wife and Childzen, for hee is in great feare, that they are either dead or in some great distresse. And doubtlesse in the tyme of his imprisonment or other dangers, hee hath oft thought, oft dreamed of them, and oft sorrowed for them, oft besought God to preserve and blesse them. And that perhaps sometimes, at the very instant when he was in the others armes, toying and dallying, and in the midst of her delights.

Well, enquiring (as before said) heares that shee is married againe, then indge you with what griefe hee heares it. But his griefe is bootlesse, for now the matter is past remedy, if he haue any care of his credit, any regard of his estimation, hee will neuer take her more, though perhaps the other, hauing had his pleasure of her, could be wel content either to restore her to him, or to leave her to any one else.

She on the other side is utterly ashamed, and her name stained with perpetuall reproach, and neither hee nor she can marry whiles they liue. Their poore Childzen are likewise grieved and shamed at their Mothers infamy. Sometimes likewise it happens that for the Wives cause, the Husband being couragious doth quarrel, & perhaps combat with him, who being better than himselfe, doth either wound or kill him, and the occasion hereof spring from their Wives pride, because (forsooth) she will take the

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the wall of the others wife, or sit above her : whom she will in no wise suffer, nor lose an inch of her estate, and hereupon the husbands must together by the eares.

Thus the supposed blessednesse which he expected by plunging himselfe in Lobs pound, is turned into sorrow, trouble, danger, and continuall discontent while life doth last.

### CHAP. XIII.

The humour of a Woman that hath beene  
twice married.

**T**here is another humour belonging to a Woman, which is, when a young man (having found the way into Lobs Pound,) meets with a Wife of like yeares, fresh, lusty, faire, kinde, and gracious : with whom shee hath lived two or thre yeeres in all delights, ioyes, and pleasure, that any married couple could have, never did the one displease the other : never foule word past betwixt them, but they are almost still colling and billing each other, like a couple of Doves : And nature hath framed such Sympathy betwene them, that if the one be ill at ease or discontented, the other is so like wise. But in the midst of this their mutuall loue and solace, it chanceth that shee dies, whereat hee grieues so extremely, that hee is almost beside himselfe with sorrow : he mournes not onely in his Apparell, for an outward shew, but vnfeinedly in his very heart ; and that so much, that he shuns all places of pleasure, and all company, lives solitarily, and spends the time in daily complaints and mones, and bitterly bewailing the losse of so good a wife, wherein no man can iustly blame him, for it is a losse worthy to be lamented, and a Felwell, which whosoever hath, is happy (but this happines is very rare.)

To be short, his thoughts are all on her, and she is so firmly printed in his minde, that whether he sleepe or wake, she seemes alwayes to be in sight, but as all things haue an end, so here had sorrow. After a while, some of his friends having spied out a second match, which as they think is very fit for him, do preuaile so much with him, through their perswasions, that hee accepts it,  
and



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and marries himselfe againe, but not as befoze, with a young Spard, but with a lusty Widow, of a middle age, and much experience, who by the triall which shee had of her first Husband, knowes how to handle the second : but that shee may doe it the better, she doth not presently discover her humour, till she haue thozowly markt how hee is inclined, what his conditions are, and what his nature is : which finding it milde, and kinde, and very flexible (the fittest mould to cast a Steele in) having now the full length of his foot, then shewes she her selfe what she is, vnmasking her dissembling malice ; her first attempt is to vsurpe Superiorty, and to become his head, and this she obtains without great difficulty, for there is nothing so lawfull as a simple and well natured young man, being in subiection, that is married to a widow, especially if shee bee (as the most of them are) of a peruerse and crabbed nature. I may very well compare him to an vnfortunate wretch, whose ill hap is to bee cast into some strong Prison, vnder the keeping of a most cruell and pittilesse Jailor, that is not moued to compassion, but rather to great rigour, in beholding the miseries of this poore wretch, whose only refuge in this distresse, is to pray vnto God, to giue him patience to endure this crosse, for if hee complaine of his hard vslage, it will afterwards prove worse.

But to proceed: This lolly Widow will within a while grow iealous, feare and suspect that some other Dame hath part of that which shee so earnestly desireth : and wherewith shee could neuer bee satisfied, so that if hee glut not her insatiable humour, straightway shee conceiue this opinion : If hee doe but onely talk, nay, (which is worse) looke on any other woman, for she by her good will would bee alwayes in his armes, or at the least in his company : For as the Fish which hauing bene in water, that through the heat of the Summer is halfe dryed by, begins to sticke full of mud, seeks for fresh water, and hauing found it, doth willingly remaine therein, and will in no wise returne to his former place : Euen so an old Woman, hauing gotten a young man, will cling to him like Ruy to an Elme.

But on the other side, a young man cannot loue an old woman howsoeuer he doth dissemble, neither is there any that more en-  
dangers

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dangers his death: for it is with him, as with one that drinketh mulky wine, who if he be thirsty, feels nothing while he is drinking, but at the end of his draught, hee feels such a displeasing tast, that it doth almost turne his stomacke.

But if young men in no wise can fancy old Women, what loue thinke you young women can beare to old men, when besides the sundry imperfections of their Age which are so loathsome, that it is impossible for a fresh young tender Damsell, (be she neuer so vertuous) to endure their company, much lesse the kisses and embraces of the person which hath them; All the lusty Gallants thereabouts will not faile to vse whatsoeuer deuices and meanes possible for the hoyning of the old Dotard; hoping that she will be easily won to wantonnes: and surely they ground this hope on great likelihood; For sith it is no difficult exploit to graft the like kindnesse on a young mans fore-head, who is able in farre better measure to feed his Wives appetite, and she hath therefore more cause to be true to him, it may surely seeme no great matter to performe the like parte of seruice with this other vnfortunate Dame.

But now to retorne to our young man, youkt (as before I said) to this old Widow, I thus conclude, that his estate is most miserable: For besides the danger of his health, and besides the subiection, nay, rather seruitude which he liues in, this third euill, (I meane his wifes ialousie) is alone an vntolerable torment vnto him; So that be he neuer so quiet, neuer so desirous to content her, neuer so fearefull to displease her, yet cannot hee auoyd her braules, obiections, and false accusations of lechery and disloyalty; for an old Woman infected with ialousie, is like a hellish fury.

If yett goe to any of her Friends about businesse, yea, to the Church to serue God, yett will shee alwayes thinke the worst, and assure her selfe, that hee playes false, though indeed hee be neuer so continent; who whatsoeuer hee pleadeth in his owne defence, yea, though he proue himselfe blamelesse, by such reasons as shee can by no reason confute, yett will not all this satisfie her: such is the peruersenesse of her stubborne, crabbed and malicious nature, made worse by Dotage and raging ialousie:

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louise : for being priuy to her owne defects, and knowing that he by reason of his youth and handsonnesse may perchance fall in fauour with a young Dame, thinking withall that a young man, when hee may haue such a match, will bee loth to leaue it for a woyle, or preferre sower vertue before sweet wine, she concludes peremptorily in those suggestions as before. See here the issues of this asses turning into Lobs pound, and intangling of himselfe again, when he had once gotten out to his former liberty, which if hee once moze looke for, he is mad: for hee must not only continue there while life both last, which by this means will be farre shorter, and he looke farre older, having bene but two yeeres married with this old crib, than if hee had liued ten yeeres with a young wife.

### CHAP. XV.

The humour of a young woman giuen ouer to all kind of wantonnesse.

**T**here is yet another Humour that a Woman is subiect to, which is, when an vnfortunate young man hauing long laboured to get into Lobs pound, and hauing in the end obtained his desire, doth match himselfe with a lusty wanton young wench, which without feare of him, or care of her owne credit, takes her pleasure freely, and withall so over-boldly, and vnauisedly, that within a while her Husband perceiues it, who thereupon being not a little enraged, doth in the heat of his impatience, after much brawling on both sides, roughly and desperately threaten her, thinking thereby to terrifie her, and make her honest by compulsion: But that makes her woyle, for where she before shee did it for wantonnesse, now will shee doe it for despight: and what with the one & the other, be so inflamed, that were shee sure to be killed for it, yet would shee not leaue it: which he perceiuing, watching her doings so narrowly, that in the end hee sees her sweet heart come closely to his house, then being on fire with fury, runnes hastily to surprize him, and enters his wifes Chamber, with full purpose to kill him, though hee had ten thousand liues: But indge pon in what a taking

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taking the poore young man as in, fixing himselfe thus surpris'd,  
and looking for nothing else but present death, because he hath  
nothing to defend himselfe. But she for whose sake he hath incur-  
red this danger, doth kindly free him by this stratagem, for as  
her husband is ready to strike or stab him, she catcheth him ha-  
stily about the middle, crying out, Alas man what doe you mean:  
While shee thus staires her husband, the pounker betakes him to  
his heeles, running down the staires again, and out of the doores,  
as if the deuil were at his taile, and after him the good man as  
fast as he can drine. But when hee sees that hee cannot ouertake  
him, he turnes backe in a litherage, to wreake his anger on his  
wife. But shee dreading as much, gets her hastily (before his  
returne) to her Mother, to whom shee complains of his cause-  
lesse suspicion, and deuillish fury, iustifying her selfe, as if shee  
were not the woman that would commit so leud a part: But  
her Mother sitting the matter narrowly, her Daughter confes-  
seth her fault, but to make it seeme the lesse, she tels her a large  
Tale of the young mans importunity, who for so long time to-  
gether, did continually trouble her, and whither soeuer she went,  
he would be sure to follow her, begging pittifully her loue and  
sauiour, that shee had often sharply answerd him, and flatly deny-  
ed his suit, yet could she not for all that bee rid of him: so that in  
the end she was inforced for her owne quietnesse to grant his re-  
quest: She repeats withal, how kindly and intirely he loues her,  
how much hee hath bestowed on her, how many soule iourneys  
hee hath had for her sake, in raine and snow, as well by night as  
day, in danger of theues, in perill of his life, and how narrow-  
ly hee escaped her husband the last time, so that for very pittie  
and compassion, shee was moued to sauiour him, and no woman  
could bee so hard hearted, as to suffer so true and kinde a young  
man to languish for her loue, and bee vnregarded: for on my  
life Mother (saith shee) if I had not yeelded, he would haue died  
for thought.

The Mother hearing her Daughter to say thus, accepts her  
and doer for currant, and thinks that she hath sufficiently iu-  
stified her selfe; but to prevent further scandale, and to appease  
her angry Sonne in Law, and reconcile her daughter vnto him

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by casting a mist before his eyes, she takes this course, she sends for her speciall Gossips and companions, whose counsels in like cases she doth use: They coming at the first call, and being all assembled, either before a good fire (if it be Winter) or in a Greene Arbo (if it be Summer) one of them noting her daughters beauty countenance, demands the cause thereof: *Marry*, (saith she) she hath had a mischance, about which, I haue made hold to trouble you, and craue your aduice: With that she recounts the whole matter vnto them, but shewing the true cause of her Husbonds anger: To be short, she hath reaped two or thre pottles of Wine, and a few Junkets, which they presently fall aboord on, that they may the better giue their seuerall verdicts afterwards: meane while they comfort the young woman, bidding her assure her selfe, that her Husband is more perplexed than she, and that I know by mine owne experience, for my husband and I were once at variance, but he could neuer be quiet till we were made friends. In good saith Gossip (saith another) and so serued I mine. Another makes a motion to send for the young Gallant that is so true a louer to her Gossips daughter, that his presence may cheere her, and rid away her melancholy.

This motion doth her Mother faintly contradict, but in the end most voices preuaile, hee is sent for, and comes with a trier: then there is much good chat, many a raproach and kinde scosse giuen the poore Husband: And to mend the matter comes in the Chamber-maid, who was prying to all the former close packing betwene her Spisirelle and her sweet heart, and for her silence and imployment, in furthering both their contents, she hath gotten a good new Colone and somewhat else.

It may bee her Mother hath sent her abroad about some business, or perhaps she copnes an excuse of her selfe, thereby onely to make a step abroad to see her Spisirelle, and to bring her some newes how all things goe at home: When both no longer seeing set within the wine where they are, than one of them asks how her Mother doth: My Mother (saith shee) I neuer saw a man in that taking: I dare say that since yesterday morning when this misfortune happened, hee hath not eaten one crum, drank one drop, or slept one winke all yesternight.

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To day hee sat downe to dinner, and put one bit in his mouth but could not swallow it, for hee spit it out presently, and sat a good while after in a dumpe: In the end striking his knife on the table, hee rose hastily, and went into the garden, and immediately came in againe: To be short, he is altogether out of temper, and can rest no where: hee doth nothing but sigh and sob, and hee looks like a dead man: hereat they laugh apace, and to bee short, they determine that two of the chiefe of them, shall goe and speake with him the next morning, and that when they are in the midst of their talke the rest shall come in afterward. The Mother with her two Gossips, according to this plot doe proceed in the matter. And next morning finding him in his dumpe, one of them gently askes him what hee ayles: hereto hee answers onely with a sigh: whereupon she takes occasion thus to speake. In god faith gossip I must chide you, my gossip your Maies Mother told mee I know not what of a disgracement betwene your wife and you, and a certaine fond humour that you are fallen into: I wis I am soory to heare it: And besoze God you are not so wise as I had thought you had bene, to wzong your wife thus without a cause, for I durst lay my life there is no such matter. By this good day (saith another) I haue knowne her euer since shee was a little one, both maid and wife, and I neuer saw but well by the woman: And in god soth it grieues mee to the very heart, that her name should now come in question without cause: Besoze God, you haue done the poore Woman that disgrace, and so stained her good name, that you will neuer be able to make her amends. Then steppes in the Chamber-maid with her two egges. In god faith (saith shee) I know not what my Master hath saide, or whereon hee doth ground his suspicion, but I take God to my witnesse, that I neuer saw any such matter by my Mistresse, and yet I am sure that if there were any such thing, I should see it as soon as another. Gods body Wzab (saith hee, all enraged) wilt thou face mee downe of that which my selfe saw? Oh Gossip, (quoth one of the dames) God forbid that euery man and woman which is alone together should doe euill. I deny not (saith the Chambermaid) that the villanous Ianaue hath long sued vnto my Mistresse.



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Gresse for such a matter: but by my honest master, I know that there is neuer a man alive whom she hates more: and rather than shee would commit any such folly with him, shee would see him hang, and be hanged her selfe: I maruell how the deuill has got into the house.

Here the other Gossips come in, one after another, and each giues her verdit: In god saith Gossip (saith one) I thinke that next your wife, there is neuer a woman in the world that lones you better than I doe: and if I knew or thought any such matter, I would not let to tell you of it. Surely (saith another) this is but the devils worke to set them at variance; for he cannot abide that Husband and wife should live wel together. In god saith saith the third, the worse Woman doth nothing but wepe. By Christ, (and the fourth) I feare it will cost her her life, she grieues and takes on in such sort. Then comes the other waxing and crying out, making as though she would scratch out his eyes with her nailes; exclaiming in this sort.

Ah cursed Caitiffe, woe worth the houre that euer my daughter matcht with thee, to be thus shamed and slandered, and haue her name spotted without cause. But she is well enough serued, that would take such a base Churle, when shee might haue had sundry god Gentlemen. Ah god gossip (saith another) be not out of patience.

Ah Gossip (saith shee) if my Daughter were in fault, by our god Lord I would kill her my selfe. But thinke ye I haue no cause to be moued, when I see my child, being guiltlesse thus abused: With that shee sings out of dyes in a rage, and all the Gossips come vpon him thicke and threefold, who is so full of sundry thoughts, and so grieved and troubled, that he knowes not whereon to resolute, nor what to say.

In the end they growing somewhat calmer, promise, if hee will, to undertake the reconciling of him and his wife, which he most earnestly desireth them to doe.

They accordingly performe it, so that all controuersies are ended, all strife ceased, the matter hushed by: and his wife taken

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ken home again; who taking greater courage by the success  
therof, and being now cleane past shame, will grow farre bol-  
dier in her billany than before. And her page spencokke, on the  
other side, having his courage thus quailed, will never after-  
wards fall at oddes with her, for feare of the like shame; but  
will suffer her to haue her olme saying in all things, and be in  
such a manner subiect to her, spending the remnant of his life;  
in care, feare, discontent and griefe, his gods  
knowing how, and himselfe  
become a laughing stocke to all  
that know him.

FINIS.